

Era closing at Henderson First: Baptists mark 150th year

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

In 1840, a year after its founding, First United Baptist Church of Henderson (later renamed First Baptist Church) was one of only nine full time Baptist congregations in Kentucky.

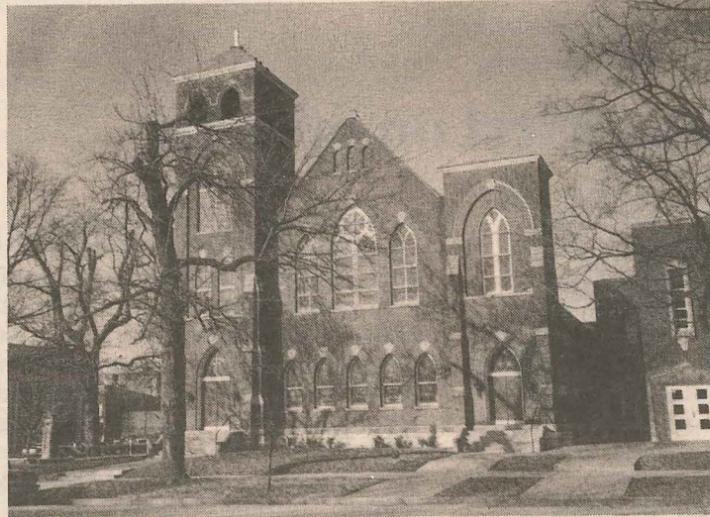
But within four decades the body had almost ceased to function, perhaps the result of a narrow-minded preacher who led the church to exclude members who did not share his extreme beliefs. Under the pastorate of H. H. D. Straton (1872-75), anyone who attended a circus, the theater or other forms of amusement was automatically disqualified from church membership. The actions so depleted the church that only a small congregation remained on his leaving.

After several brief and interim pastorates, the church—once a state leader, then one of its weakest congregations—ceased to function as a self-supporting unit and began to be operated by the Board of State Missions. Only a handful of faithful members attended worship services and the sanctuary had fallen into disrepair. The situation was so desperate that, in 1883, the secretary of the Home Mission Board, I. T. Tichenor, was called in as interim pastor, bringing some stability and beginning to turn the church around.

The above is recounted in the fascinating annals of the west Kentucky congregation which celebrated its 150th anniversary Sunday, Aug. 13. The sanctuary swelled to include 610 persons that day for the morning service.

The 150-year printed history of the church was available. It consisted of an updated version of E. Keevil Judy's original account produced in 1964 on the occasion of the 125th anniversary. The revised version was completed by member Kenneth L. Davis.

The book cites many glowing achievements of the Green Valley Association congregation, despite its significant problems a century ago. Not only has the mission-minded congregation sent several missionaries to home and foreign soil, it is the mother church of four other congregations which have in turn resulted in six more established churches in and near Henderson.



First Baptist Church, Henderson, completed this facility in 1893 on the only site the congregation has occupied in 150 years. Pastor David Bratcher (at right) announced he will retire from 19 years of service Dec. 31, having the longest tenure of the church's 31 pastors.



father of a son, David, an Evansville, Ind. minister of music and youth, and a daughter, Pamela Kay Chamberlain, Henderson.

At the morning service Aug. 13 Kenneth Winters, new president of Campbellsville (Ky.) College and a former member of First Church, Henderson (1960-65), was speaker.

Winters told the congregation that one of the things that has caused it "to be great" is that it is "warm, gracious and loving." He observed people "enthusiastic" about what is "going on here." Winters admonished: "Never underestimate the impact you can have on people."

He presented the needs of Campbellsville College and said, "All of the things I say about you I could also say about Campbellsville." He urged the church to "have a vision" of where it needs to go and to "work diligently" to refine that goal, and then "apply every resource" to accomplish it.

Following a noon meal at the church, a quartet of local ministers of music, "Common Call," performed in the sanctuary.

At an afternoon service concluding the day's activities, Bratcher recognized guests and returning members, former pastors and staff members spoke and the congregation renewed its ties to its past.

Other highlights:

- The present sanctuary was occupied in 1893 on land first deeded to the congregation in 1839, its only meeting site.

- Differences of opinion with pastor George W. Clark (1910-14) over church polity and other matters signaled another crisis. Some 177 members followed Clark out of the church in 1914 to form Immanuel Baptist Temple. While the split was difficult at the time, Judy states in his history that it "turned out to be a blessing to the city" and gave "great impetus to the work of the kingdom." The two churches grew larger and stronger than if only one had existed and long ago reconciled their differences.

- During the pastorate of Logan B. English (1919-31), a strong advocate of Sunday school, that organization made great strides. While enrolment was 479 and attendance 426 on Apr. 6, 1924, only 14 months later (May 31, 1925) attendance reached 2438.

- U. S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote a letter of congratulations to the congregation on its 100th anniversary observance in 1939.

- In a 1947 revival 73 new members entered the church, 63 of them by baptism, requiring pastor Judy to spend an hour in the baptistry.

And on it goes. Judy was pastor of the congregation on two occasions (1945-52; 1962-70). In the years between the church called two pastors, Francis R. Tallant (1953-60) and Tom W. Dunlap (1960-61).

Both Judy and Tallant assisted current pastor David Bratcher in services commemorating the church's 150th anniversary Aug. 13.

Bratcher, a native of Oldham County, had been superintendent of missions in Green Valley Baptist Association since 1967. Upon Judy's retirement, he accepted the church's call as its interim minister and as full time pastor in October 1970. He has announced plans to retire Dec. 31 after 19 years at Henderson, the longest of the church's 31 ministerial tenures.

Bratcher was educated at William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He did not feel the call to ministry until he had been a businessman for a decade. Surrendering to preach in 1956, he entered seminary and pastored Gilead Baptist Church, Tinsport, Ind. (1957-59). Upon gradua-

tion he served Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, Brandenburg, Ky. (1959-67), then going to Green Valley Association.

He has been on the executive board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention three terms, a member of strategic committees of the convention and the convention's first vice president in 1975-76.

Married to the former Camille Harper, a retired school teacher, Bratcher is the

Kentucky Baptist Convention operating budget

Sept. 1, 1988-Aug. 31, 1989

\$17,035,885

"AUGUST COUNTDOWN"

Cooperative Program receipts

Sept. 1, 1988-July 31, 1989	\$14,873,090
Amount needed in August to equal total CP gifts last year	\$1,479,922
Amount needed to achieve 1988-89 budget	\$2,162,765
Amount given this year from Aug. 1-18	\$1,201,611

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in the interim

Murray First on mission

A debate took place recently at First Baptist Church, Murray. It wasn't in a business meeting or a Sunday school class. In fact, only a few persons were involved. The church had planned a trip to Campbellsville College to assist in upgrading their facilities. The debate centered on whether or not to call the effort a "mission project." Some contended that such a project was vital and essential but not necessarily "missions." Others countered by saying we might be stretching the term, but that our assistance qualified as missions in the broadest sense of the word.

Now that I am on campus and understand the needs of this institution, I am convinced that we are making a missions investment. Yes, our tasks have included painting, carpet cleaning, plumbing, cleaning dorms, groundskeeping and electrical work. While these relate to the physical needs of the campus, nevertheless they are important. The physical appearance and resources of a church are vitally significant to carrying out the mission of the church when it gathers for worship and education. They can add a positive atmosphere conducive to spiritual growth. This mission project is making a valuable contribution to the goals of Christian higher education at Campbellsville College.

Our church has a rich heritage of involvement in missions going back to the turn of the century. We have sent many individuals and mission teams to places at home and abroad including a team of 21 to Brazil last summer. For 17 consecutive years we have commissioned teams to do work in Lame Deer, Mont. Persons have been saved and lives changed because of God's blessings in these efforts.

Our work this week is not the same, yet we believe we are helping to enhance the quality of student life on campus. The physical needs are numerous. Our team is intent on making a difference. Only God knows the students whose first impression of Campbellsville College will be more positive, and only he knows how many lives will be altered for eternity because of what they receive here.

As a product of Baptist education at Mississippi College and Southern Seminary, I am grateful to Southern Baptists for my training in ministry. Students at a Baptist college have an opportunity to pursue an education in a Christian setting. Although they are faced with the problems and issues of the "real world" like those on other campuses, there is a supportive environment for Christian interaction in the administration, faculty, staff and student body. Christian role models are visible. The students are not more Christian than other Baptists at state-funded schools, but faith and learning are integrated at Baptist institutions.

Quality education and Christian growth can go hand in hand. As a pastor in the city where Murray State University is located, I am not denigrating other options for education nor downplaying the excellent ministries of our Baptist student unions on state campuses. Kentucky Baptists have

an outstanding BSU program at Murray State under the leadership of Keith Inman. I am simply encouraging support for our Baptist educational institutions.

In case you are wondering about the choice of Campbellsville College, the reason is very simple. Ken Winters, president now for one year, was a former member of First Baptist Church, Murray. He was active as a deacon, Sunday school director, Church Training director and served in other facets of church life. We wanted to continue our close ties with him and his wife Shirley. In addition Owen Billington, former trustee of the college, and Mildred Robertson, current trustee, were team members.

Several things have happened in the process of our planning and work. As with most mission efforts a special bond of fellowship has been formed among the 32 participants of various ages and backgrounds. We have worked together eaten together, prayed together, ached together and laughed together. At our first breakfast one fellow located a utility brush and "combed" another fellow's partially bald head. (The names are withheld to protect the innocent.) I am impressed with the physical stamina and hard work of our team, especially the senior adults. All of us have developed a closeness in working relationships and in spiritual kinship.

Moreover, each of us has gotten to know others in the group far better than we did before this trip. Keith Tabers, an electrician by trade, traveled with me and allowed me to be his "gofer" on campus. I have learned a little about electrical work by helping and a lot about him from our time together. This has been a special blessing which has occurred repeatedly.

Finally, let me share that we have caught a fresh vision of God's people working together to make a missions investment. In fact, team member Fred Workman has suggested that Kentucky Baptist churches might take on the responsibility for assisting our Kentucky Baptist educational institutions on an annual basis (i.e., 15 to 20 churches might each select one floor of a building to upgrade each year). For us the logical choice was Campbellsville College. Many of you have close ties with or are located near another of our Baptist schools. Why not explore the possibility of helping in this way?

The team from Murray will go home with a sense of accomplishment. We are convinced that the physical facilities of the campus will be in better shape and Campbellsville College more prepared to achieve its goals. We believe in higher education with a Christian dimension. We thank God that Kentucky Baptists do as well.

As the school year begins and students travel to Baptist campuses across the state, let us say a special prayer that they might grow in both faith and learning in a Christian environment.

Greg Earwood

western recorder

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kentucky baptist opportunities



Cleary



Hayner



Hester



Davis

sor of family ministry, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville; Anne Davis, professor of social work, Southern Seminary; John Lepper, director, KBC Family Ministry and Church Administration Department.

The conference begins at 2 p.m. Oct. 2 and concludes at noon Oct. 3. For information: John Lepper, director, KBC Family Ministry and Church Administration Department, Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243, (502) 245-4101.

Discipleship training focus of workshops

Discipleship training in the '90s is the focus of eight discipleship training days sponsored by the KBC's Church Training Department.

Locations and dates for the workshops are Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Bagdad, and Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah, Sept. 9; Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and Burlington (Ky.) Baptist Church, Sept. 16; Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly, Aurora, and Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset, Sept. 23; Post Oak Baptist Church, Russellville, and Gardenside Baptist Church, Lexington, Sept. 30.

All workshops include five conferences: general officers, adult leaders, youth leaders, children's leaders and preschool leaders.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and all workshops conclude at 3 p.m. Cost is \$5.75 at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek and \$5 at Clear Creek.

For information: James G. Clontz, KBC Church Training Department, Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243, (502) 245-4101.

Deacons, pastors, spouses offered two fall retreats



Compton



Shannon

Proactive ministry and church leaders working together to shape ministry is the center of the 1989 deacon, pastor, spouse retreats sponsored by the KBC's Family Ministry and Church Administration Department.

The retreats are scheduled Sept. 15-16 at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Bagdad, and Sept. 29-30 at Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly, Aurora. Featured speakers are Billy Compton, associate, KBC Evangelism Department, Cedarmore, and Rick Shannon, pastor, Second Baptist Church, Greenville, Jonathan Creek.

Conference topics include planning deacons' meetings and work, shaping the church of the '90s, WiseCounsel, growing in relational skills, conducting a spiritual directions emphasis and women who care.

Cost for lodging and meals ranges from \$23 to \$31.75. Commuters pay \$1 for insurance in addition to meal costs. An advance deposit of \$15 per person must accompany reservations.

For information: John Lepper, KBC Family Ministry and Church Administration Department, Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243, (502) 245-4101.



Curtis C. Mooney
President
10801 Shelbyville Road
Middletown, KY 40243

homes for children

The high dive

Neither SuEllen nor I are water people. We grew up in Webster County where, at the time at least, there were few sanctioned places to swim. Some would go to the stripper pits near Providence or Wheatcroft and there were a few lakes, but neither of us have ever been very comfortable around water.

Our children, however, love the water and there is a large pool in the subdivision in which we live so we joined for the summer. Both have enjoyed swimming.

Andrea had been after us for some time to let her go off the diving board. Now neither SuEllen nor I have had any experience with diving boards and we had read enough horror stories of children falling and injuring themselves for life that we kept putting her off. Finally one day SuEllen could not think of another excuse and so allowed her to dive off the low board.

She loved it and it was no time until she was going off the high dive as well. She now wants to be on the diving team next year. We are proud of her but neither of us is real comfortable with this development yet.

One of the most difficult challenges for all parents is letting go, particularly in areas where we are not experienced ourselves. We of course can only see the child's world through the overlay of our own but their world is very different from the world we grew up in.

Knowing when to say yes and when to say no to children is to me one of the most difficult challenges of parenthood. If the reins are held too tightly they never learn to decide on their own and when faced with the real world as adults they are not prepared for it. On the other hand if we err by allowing too much freedom, then their very lives and futures are in jeopardy.

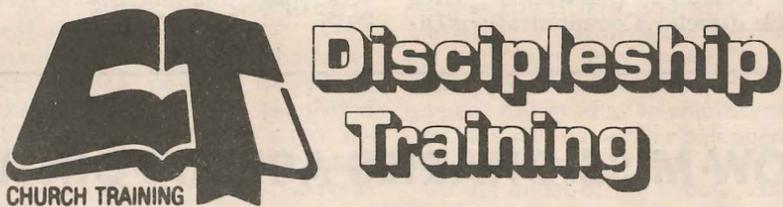
We would like to have an expert give us guidelines we can always apply in making decisions but such really does not exist.

Most of us, however, learn that our parents faced the same questions and theirs before them did as well. Our best guide is to trust our own instincts and pray for guidance.

Single adult ministry focus of Haworth meet

A variety of personalities will address church leaders on reaching and ministering to single adults at the 1989 Haworth Conference Oct. 2-3 at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Bagdad.

Conference leaders are Tim Cleary, single adult consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; Jerry Hayner, pastor, Forest Hills Baptist Church, Raleigh, N. C.; Michael Hester, profes-



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Baptist Study Leader	Sept. 16	Clear Creek Baptist Bible College
Equipping Youth Trauma Center		Burlington Baptist, Burlington
LifeGuide	Sept. 23	Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly
Life after Death		Beacon Hill Baptist, Somerset
Discipleship Training Magazine	Sept. 30	Post Oak Baptist, Russellville
		Gardenside Baptist, Lexington

Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturdays

for additional information or directions, contact Discipleship Training/Special Ministries Dept., KBC, (502) 245-4101 Douglas T. Strader, Director James G. Clontz, Associate Director

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baptist news briefs



SPEAK FOR PENNINGTONS—The pastor and former pastor of Greg and Katrina Pennington express appreciation that a Foreign Mission Board trustee subcommittee granted them opportunity to speak on the couple's behalf. William Johnson (l), the Penningtons' current pastor, and their former pastor, Phil Christopher, now of Highland Baptist Church, Louisville, told the committee the Penningtons are a gentle, caring couple who do not want to be divisive (see story).

Denied couple may be reconsidered by FMB

A subcommittee of Foreign Mission Board trustees reopened discussion of the case of Greg and Katrina Pennington, who were rejected for missionary appointment June 27 in a 9-4 vote.

After closed sessions the subcommittee issued a statement intended to dispel what trustee spokesmen called "inaccurate information" surrounding the case of the two ordained staff members of Northwest Baptist Church, Ardmore, Okla.

The statement, affirmed unanimously by the entire trustee board Aug. 9, also "keeps the door open" for possible reconsideration by the subcommittee of the Penningtons' application for missionary service, according to trustee chairman C. Mark Corts of Winston-Salem, N. C.

Corts said reconsideration would not come immediately but possibly could occur before the two-year period which rejected missionary candidates normally must wait before again seeking appointment.

Both Penningtons expressed willingness to cooperate with the process outlined in the trustee statement and said their only desire "is to see Southern Baptists united behind goals for missions and evangelism."

The subcommittee statement denied that Katrina Pennington's ordination or pressure from Oklahoma's Enon Baptist Association, which opposed her ordination, had affected the earlier vote.

It affirmed "the current board policy that ordination neither qualifies nor disqualifies for appointment," and encouraged "all qualified and God-called persons to apply for mission service with the assurance they will be given every prayerful consideration." The same subcommittee has approved two other ordained women for appointment in the past two years, Corts said.

Since the June 27 vote board leaders have received "an avalanche of letters" from Southern Baptists protesting the decision, Corts said. They also have received requests for reconsideration from the Penningtons, the couple's current and former pastors, Northwest Baptist Church and others.

Corts said board leaders have received more than 300 letters, virtually all protesting the subcommittee action on

grounds it rejected the Penningtons because of her ordination and because the committee knuckled under to pressure from Enon Association. Letters also accused trustees of ignoring the autonomy of the local church, violating the principle of cooperative missions, overriding a staff recommendation favoring the Penningtons and adhering to only one political viewpoint.

The Penningtons' pastor at Northwest Baptist, William Johnson, and former pastor, Phil Christopher, now of Highland Baptist Church, Louisville, attended the trustee meeting. They said Northwest Church asked Mrs. Pennington to consider ordination after a two-year study of the subject and that she experienced "God's call in that direction."

Allowed to speak to the subcommittee, Johnson and Christopher said they described the Penningtons as gentle, caring people who want to be "submissive, not subversive." They denied the couple had created divisiveness.

The subcommittee statement expressed "deep appreciation for the Penningtons and their ministry" and added: "We are not doubting their call or sincerity, but need additional clarification. We regret the confidential process has moved into the public arena. We request (FMB) staff to continue confidentially consulting with the Penningtons to clarify substantive issues, working toward a recommendation to the committee even before the normal two-year waiting period if appropriate." (BP)

FMB staff affirmed in candidate reviews

Foreign Mission Board trustees cleared the way for requiring the agency's staff to scrutinize prospective missionaries' beliefs more closely.

Trustees voted to accept a joint trustee-staff study committee's proposal, which emphasizes more trustee control over the staff-implemented process of missionary selection. But they stopped short of deciding to have trustees routinely interview missionary candidates about their theological beliefs.

Among other things, the proposal encourages a subcommittee of trustees to review the process annually and present findings to the trustees' mission management and personnel committee. The committee will direct staff to routinely

ask specific questions and revise application materials of missionary candidates as needed, "with immediate attention to the Statement of Christian Beliefs," according to the new policy.

The recommendations also state that the subcommittee reviewing missionary applications may, under extraordinary circumstances, ask the candidate to come to Richmond for a personal interview with the committee, an option that has existed all along but of which some trustees said they were unaware.

Trustees considered suggestions that they personally interview candidates proposing to teach theology overseas as one way to ensure appointees believe the Bible and are able to communicate their belief. But they instead adopted language encouraging trustees to trust the staff to identify specific, predetermined parameters of belief among candidates. (BP)

14 KBC staff available for 1990 'Here's Hope'

Fourteen state Baptist building staffers have announced their availability as evangelists for "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You" revivals next spring. All may be contacted at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243, telephone (502) 245-4101:

Don Blaylock, director, Student Department; Billy Compton, associate, Evangelism Department; Eugene I. Enlow, coordinator, "Here's Hope," Evangelism Department; Ken Forman, associate, Direct Missions Department; Guy Futral Jr., consultant, Minister-Church Relations Department; Greg Hancock, director, Communications Di-

vision; Bill Jagers, director, Evangelism Department; Paul W. Lee, director, Media Department; William W. Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer; Jack Palmer, associate, Sunday School Department; Robert Y. Simpkins, director, Brotherhood Department; G. Tom Smoot, associate, Student Department; Calvin C. Wilkins, coordinator, partnership missions, Direct Missions Department; C. Benton Williams, director, Missions and Church Services Division.

Texas pastor says 'no' to Annuity Board post

Paul W. Powell has given a final "no" to his July 25 election as president and chief executive officer of the Annuity Board.

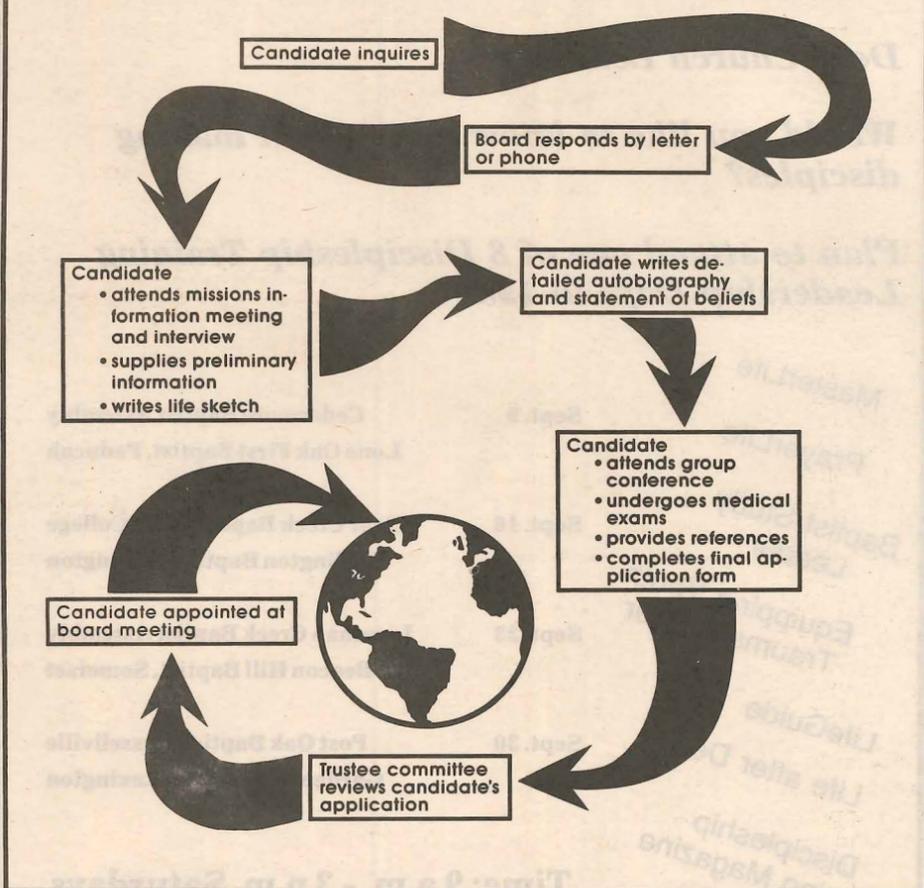
Powell, pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church, Tyler, Tex., told his congregation Sunday morning, Aug. 13, "It's my feeling and my conviction that I shall remain the pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church."

According to the Tyler Morning Telegraph, Powell received a standing ovation from the congregation when he made the statement.

Powell, an Annuity Board trustee five years, was the unanimous choice of a seven-member search committee to become chief executive officer to succeed Darold H. Morgan, who has asked to retire Mar. 1, 1990, after 18 years in the position.

When he was nominated, Powell asked for more time to consider the decision. He earlier declined the nomination, but agreed to reconsider after trustees voted unanimously to elect him. (BP)

HOW MISSIONARIES ARE APPOINTED



ROAD TO APPOINTMENT—This illustration shows the path Southern Baptists travel on the way to appointment as foreign missionaries. The process, which can take several years, helps missionary candidates, Foreign Mission Board staff and trustees determine where God is leading. Board trustees must approve a candidate's application first in subcommittee, then in committee and finally as a full board before he or she can become a missionary.

BSSB's Elder holds on despite effort to fire him

Baptist Sunday School Board trustees turned aside from an attempt to fire president Lloyd Elder Aug. 7. But while expressing support for his presidency, they rebuked him for what they perceived to be his involvement in denominational politics.

A motion by trustee Joseph T. Knott III, an attorney and member of Providence Baptist Church, Raleigh, N. C., to fire Elder was withdrawn after almost an hour of discussion and parliamentary maneuvers with no decision.

The trustees did approve a six-point statement prompted by trustee Larry Holly, physician and member of West End Baptist Church, Beaumont, Tex., who sent out a mailing of more than 40 pages of criticisms and questions of Elder in July and presented a motion for Elder's censure to the board's general administration committee, which reviews Elder's performance and makes recommendations to the full board.

The statement unanimously recommended by the committee and approved by the board:

- Expressed regret for Elder's "judgment and timing" regarding actions concerning a \$400,000 gift from the board to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee last February to pay on the Southern Baptist Convention building debt. The actions, which questioned if the board would have made the gift had it known the Executive Committee had discretionary use of funds such as Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs budget allocations, were perceived as "political activity."

- Instructs Elder to seek a "balance" in denominational political viewpoints in speakers, writers and authors enlisted by the board and to "instruct" all to "refrain from agitating the political climate within the Southern Baptist Convention."

- Recommends that a committee be appointed to draft an instrument to use to evaluate the performance of the president.

- Encourages trustees with grievances against Elder to take them to the general administration committee for consideration in his annual performance evaluation.

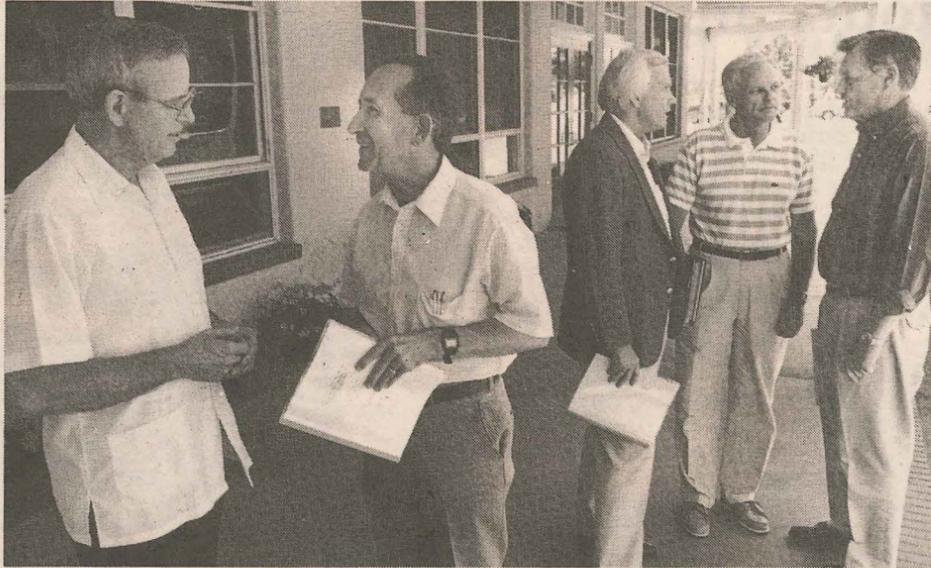
Holly's mailing contained more than 40 pages of letters, news stories, articles by Holly and a 12-page "history" he had written of the last six years of the board—Elder's tenure.

Elder explained to the general administration committee that he had not violated the board's directive in the matter of the \$400,000 gift and the committee accepted his explanation. As a part of the statement presented to the full board, the committee asked Elder to present his explanation.

In his presentation, however, Elder, who said he was not sent copies of Holly's mailing but had obtained a copy on his own, went beyond the matter of the gift to respond to other charges made by Holly.

He said he resented the continual rehashing of things previously dealt with and supposedly disposed of by the board and said he did not feel that an attempt by a single trustee to rewrite the six-year history of the board served the board well. "I want to say to you that we do not have a crisis," he said. "The president is doing acceptably well given the playing field."

Elder was asked to explain instances interpreted as political involvement. During that explanation, Knott made his motion for dismissal. He asked that



Baptist Sunday School Board president Lloyd Elder (l) talked with Johnnie Godwin, newly elected vice president for general publishing, during the semiannual meeting of the board's trustees at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center. Others elected to new positions were Jimmy D. Edwards, vice president for marketing and distribution; Andy Dodson, director of the Distribution Services Division; and Robert M. Turner, assistant vice president for church programs and services. Not pictured is Gary M. Cook, vice president for church programs and services.

Elder be dismissed as president and the office declared vacant.

He charged that in Elder he had seen a pattern of behavior "at times openly hostile, sometimes less, but always resistant to new or newer trustees."

Holly, who in his history of Elder's presidency, said it was "imperative" the board "be led by a man who will walk in concert with the great presidents being elected by our convention," supported Knott's motion for dismissal.

Then Knott rose and asked that his motion be withdrawn. He later said that he had been encouraged by others around him to make the withdrawal. Argument followed as to whether the motion was still Knott's or belonged to the body at that point.

In the midst of the debate, chairman Warren Hultgren, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla., put the withdrawal motion to the board and it was approved by voice vote. (BP)

Elder bares his soul after effort to fire him

Lloyd Elder "felt abandoned" after trustees spent more than an hour discussing whether to fire him from his post as president of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

"I have not felt so abandoned since our daughter died in an automobile accident," Elder told BSSB employees during an assembly Aug. 11.

During an Aug. 7-9 meeting, trustees spent more than an hour discussing a motion to dismiss the president and declare the post vacant. The motion subsequently was withdrawn.

Elder said he is resolved to do God's will in his life and "to rally with energy and his grace, which is sufficient, to stay and endure with high purpose for the long term in service as president of the Sunday School Board and to depend upon the Lord, upon Southern Baptists and upon you as fellow employees to do that with effectiveness."

Elder told the assembly audience of about 1000 employees, retirees and visitors, "This has been a tremendously difficult time for Lloyd and Sue Elder."

"After the motion was withdrawn—which I consider the depth of cowardice on the part of the trustee who withdrew it—I felt as if I had been laid out on a table for surgery and cut wide open and left there to see if I would live."

It was personally painful for his dismissal to be discussed for an hour and never voted on, he said, and asked, "How do we know how many trustees would have voted for it?"

At the conclusion of his address, Elder received a standing ovation and about a dozen large sheets of paper with written support from employees. Sue Elder was presented a bouquet of roses. (BP)

Channels thwarted; non employe hired as editor

In unprecedented action, trustees of the Baptist Sunday School Board have given administrative control of one of its publications to a nonemployee.

Trustees directed the Student Ministry Department to publish an addition to the "Baptist Student Ministry Guidebook" and named Max Barnett of Norman, Okla., managing editor.

Barnett, director of the Baptist Student Union at the University of Oklahoma, will approve any writers and a field consultant to implement an evangelistic and discipleship approach to student ministry. The action marks the first time a nonemployee has been given authority to exercise total editorial control over a publication. Barnett is an employee of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

The recommendation to publish the addition and name Barnett was presented by Floyd E. Hughes, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Caledonia, Mich.

In the February 1989 meeting Hughes distributed "A List of Concerns" about Baptist Student Union he said had been prepared by six full time BSU directors. Some of the 10 concerns related to claims evangelism and discipleship need a higher priority in student work.

During board discussion, Don Dilday, director of missions in Conroe, Tex., moved to postpone a vote until the board's February meeting. "I do not want us to set a precedent. We need to involve our administration in employment," he said.

The motion to postpone was opposed by Larry Holly, a physician from Beaumont, Tex., and by Dan Collins, an attorney from Taylors, S. C.

The motion to postpone was defeated and the committee's recommendation was passed on a voice vote with some opposition. (BP)

Five lose jobs, 13 more to shift on HMB staff

Faced with an \$8.2 million cut in 1989 expenditures, trustees of the Home Mission Board voted Aug. 9 to eliminate 28 positions from its national staff.

While 15 of the positions are vacant, 13 employees will be affected directly by the reduction. Of those 13, eight will be transferred to other board positions and five have no other assignments.

The 28 positions—8 percent of the Atlanta staff—were deleted from about 380 positions. Employees affected:

- Gordon Lawrence, associate director of Program Research Department, released due to deletion of position. Lawrence has no definite plans but is looking at several possibilities with local churches and a state convention.

- Tony Coursey, librarian, released Sept. 1 due to combining of librarian, archivist and assistant librarian positions. Coursey is considering a position in secular business in Atlanta.

- Herman Rios, national consultant for evangelism with ethnics, released due to deletion of position no later than Dec. 31. Rios has no definite plans at this time.

- Sam Schlegel, national missionary in experimental ministries, released due to deletion of position no later than Dec. 31. Schlegel has no definite plans but is exploring options with other ministry positions.

- David Bunch, assistant vice president of strategy development for the extension section, released due to deletion of position at the end of 1990.

Eight others being transferred to other positions at the board are:

- Hugh Gibson, director of records management, position deleted. Gibson was transferred to the board's office automation services as a microcomputer specialist effective Aug. 15.

- Floyd Tidsworth, associate vice president of extension section, position suspended. Tidsworth has been transferred to the new church extension Division as director.

- Delbert Fann, national missionary in ethnic church growth and leadership development, position to be deleted Dec. 31. Fann currently is being considered for a language missionary position in a western state that would require future board action.

- Joel Land, director of New Church Development Department, position deleted through reorganization of New Church Extension Division. Land was transferred to the Special Ministries Department as associate director.

- Bill Gordon, associate director of Interfaith Witness Department, position to be deleted Dec. 31. Gordon will be recommended for appointment as interfaith witness regional director for the East coast, pending board approval.

- Thomas Wright, national missionary for special projects in language missions, position to be deleted Aug. 31. Wright was transferred to the Language Church Development Department as director.

- Dale Holloway, national consultant for bivocational ministries, position to be deleted Jan. 1, 1990. Holloway has been offered work on a contract basis with the extension section and will continue as bivocational pastor of Day Star Baptist Church, Florence, Miss.

- Margrette Stevenson, associate vice president of services section, position to be deleted Dec. 31. Mrs. Stevenson will move to another position at the board to be announced at a later date. (BP)

Congregation 'adopts' mission

by Chris Barnett
State Correspondent

Most churches are born into the Southern Baptist Convention. They begin as a mission church and then constitute as an autonomous congregation. But Victory Baptist Church has been "adopted" by Burlington Baptist Church.

The story of the relationship between these two churches may signal a growing trend in Southern Baptist life.

Pastor Paul Godsey and the Burlington congregation had hopes of giving birth to a mission church. They employed marketing strategies, consulted with associational and convention resource persons and prayerfully considered their options. Despite their work, the process was moving slowly and was becoming frustrating.

Then one day Godsey was visited by Rick Haggett, pastor of Victory Baptist Church, Florence. Godsey listened as the young pastor described the needs of his recently established 32-member church.

After organizing as a church in November 1988, the Victory church began sketching tentative plans for the future. As a congregation not affiliated with any denomination, it had limited resources. Haggett turned to his friend Ron Phillips, a pastor near Chattanooga.

Phillips advised the new church to look specifically to a local Southern Baptist church which was well respected in the community and which had ample resources. Haggett adds, "We were also looking for a church which could help us develop effective programs. We hoped that our parent church could give us guidance in planning, building and reaching."

As Haggett discussed the advice of Phillips with his people, one of the members suggested Burlington Baptist Church. This inspired Haggett to call on Godsey.

The initial conversation between the two men moved slowly until the subject of evangelism came up. After that discussion the Victory pastor was persuaded that he wanted to be affiliated with the Burlington church and with Southern Baptists.

There were two obstacles which had to be overcome before the relationship could progress. One was the Victory Church's reluctance to support the Cooperative Program. They had specific questions about the support and accountability of missionaries and the distribution of Cooperative Program gifts.

These questions were resolved when Haggett met Randall Jones director of missions for Northern Kentucky Baptist Association. Jones, himself a former missionary, explained the screening process Southern Baptist missionaries are subjected to before the appointment. According to Haggett, "The thing which impressed our congregation most was the collection of audits, church reports and other records made public through convention annuals."

The second obstacle which had to be overcome was defining the relationship between the two churches. Some suggested that Victory could become a mission of Burlington. Haggett explained, "Reverting to mission status would be a step back and not a step forward. We had already gained an identity. Mission status was not exactly what we were looking for."

It occurred to Godsey that a unique relationship needed to be formed. Though unaware of any such precedent

he felt that a parent-child relationship was in order. But since the child was already "born" an "adoption" was appropriate. The Burlington pastor compares this relationship with the relationship Christians have with God. As Ephesians explains, though once alienated from God, Christians have been adopted by God through Christ.

After prayerful consideration the Victory church petitioned Burlington for "adoption" status. The Burlington church voted to accept the terms of the petition which had been formulated by the missions committees from the two churches.

In July 1989 the churches formalized their agreement. While a three-page document was agreed upon for the sake of clarity and communication, the relationship thrives on trust, creativity and flexibility.

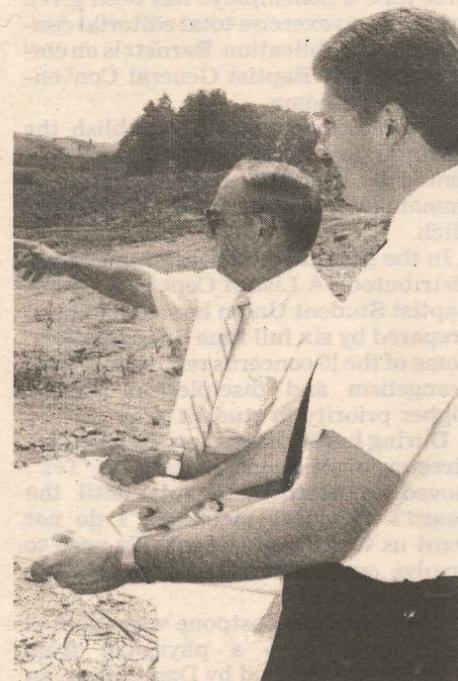
Godsey feels this relationship will be mutually beneficial. As the parent church, Burlington will provide resources, guidance and credibility within the community. The parent church feels this is a great opportunity to fulfill its mission mandate.

Haggett and the Florence church recognized the benefits they will reap from this relationship. Not only will the Burlington church be a model for programming, but as Haggett expressed, "They will give us credibility within the community."

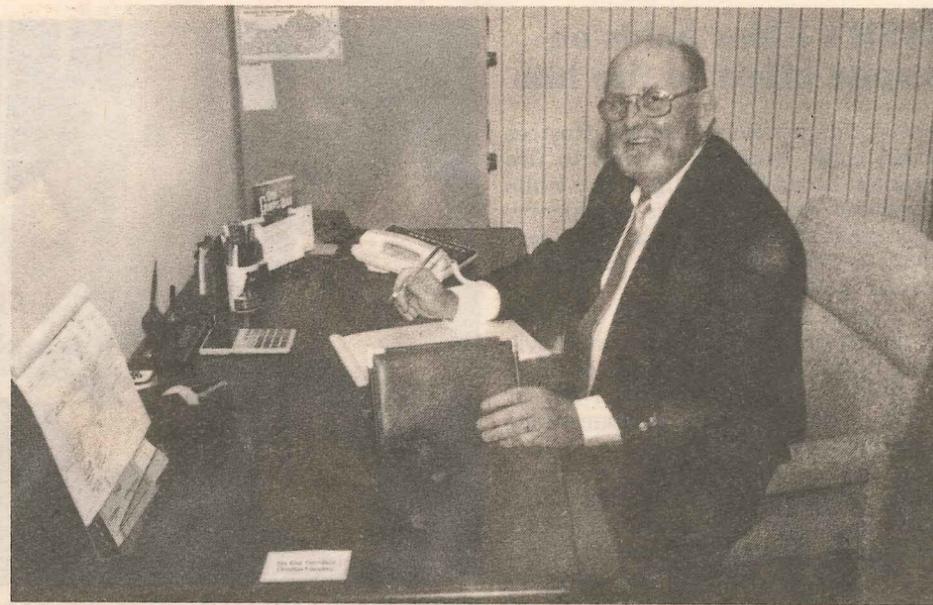
The help available to the young church became apparent almost immediately. Godsey contacted Harold Wainscott, local church starter strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, to make him aware of Victory's need to find property.

Wainscott emphasized that the important thing was to find good property. He commented, "They have enough people now. We can help them find a good location with no fewer than five acres." Wainscott, Godsey, Haggett and Jones together surveyed four sites where the church could locate.

While a great deal of work lies ahead for both congregations, they are taking the time to celebrate their new relationship. Sunday, July 30, the two churches worshiped together. Both congregations baptized new Christians at the Burlington church.



Paul Godsey (left) and Rick Haggett survey a possible location for Victory Baptist Church, an "adopted" Southern Baptist congregation.



Guy King, who admits he's often crying on the inside.

Consultant known for humor; takes Christian ed seriously

by Chris Barnett
State Correspondent

For 17 years Guy King has been one of the most colorful personalities in Kentucky Baptist life. From his red suspenders to his bright smile, his commitment to professional competence to his practical jokes, he has radiated God's love.

Doctors have ordered the religious education consultant to curtail his workload because of his health. This will be a great loss to King because he has loved his work so much. But his wife Betty says that even if he obeys doctors' orders two things about him will not change—his voracious appetite and his sense of humor.

Churches throughout Kentucky will attest that King's sense of humor has been a trademark of his ministry. He has served at Rosedale Baptist, Ft. Mitchell Baptist, Main Street Baptist and First Baptist, Newport. The 60-year-old King has also promoted Kentucky Baptist work as regional coordinator for the KBC Sunday School Department.

First Baptist Church, Newport, where King is a member, knows he is an adept practical joker. They know, too, that he can absorb the kidding which is directed toward him.

Recently, King took one dose of his heart medication but got so busy he forgot that he had taken it. When his wife reminded him to take his medicine, he did—again!

After a trip to the hospital to have his stomach pumped, an event which King describes dramatically, he left for church. He was greeted by a congregation which was relieved to hear he was okay. But they also seized this opportunity to joke with him about his apparent drug abuse.

King's effective use of humor often creates avenues through which he can share his life story which is a poignant tribute to his wife and to Jesus Christ. His story begins in a home devoid of Christian values and ends in a clear calling to the ministry of education.

King grew up in a non-Christian home. Neither of his parents expressed a commitment to Christ, nor did they encourage King in the development of Christian values.

Before becoming a Christian as an adult, King had a wide range of experi-

ences. He was in the military, in the trucking business and later in politics, serving as a judge in the Kenton County Small Claims Court.

His conversion came about as a result of his wife's commitment to Christ and the church. Seeing the beauty that flowed from within her, King became interested in church. After he accepted Christ as savior, and after hearing strong evangelistic preaching for a year, King felt called to the ministry of teaching—equipping the saints.

Education is the form of ministry King felt called to perform. Part of the reason for this, he thinks, is the lack of the knowledge of Christ prevalent in the home in which he was reared.

His sense of humor and his education help King relate to a wide spectrum of people. King quotes the apostle Paul to describe his attitude toward ministry: "I must be all things to all men."

He believes the Southern Baptist Convention is the greatest thing God has ever given to his people. What he cherishes most are the Cooperative Program and the autonomy of the local church.

King quickly summarizes what he thinks is the greatest challenge of the ministry of education—evangelism through the Sunday school. This is a great challenge today because of apathy, comfort, materialism and the fact that Baptists have forgotten their roots, he says.

Randy Jones, a close friend of King's and director of missions in Northern Kentucky Association, describes the great affection northern Kentucky Baptists feel for King. "He is a very generous person, a man of prayer. He has paid his way to the Philippines twice to do missions work. He has a strong sense of integrity and wholeness... he knows who he is as a Christian."

Of himself King says, "I like to joke and use humor but often I'm crying on the inside. I think of pastor-friends who are going through tough times. My heart breaks when I think of the millions of unchurched people in our world."

Kentucky Baptists have been the benefactors of King's ministry. He has been teacher, soul-winner, compassionate friend and practical joker. His influence has helped Baptists laugh at themselves, take education seriously and deepen their commitment for winning the lost.

Dale Klaber: miracle in a modern world

by Denise Spencer
State Correspondent

Have you ever dreamed you were falling, only to awaken with a start? Such was the real-life nightmare that became a miracle for Dale Klaber.

Last Nov. 28 Klaber, a Baptist deacon, said goodbye to his wife Carolyn and daughter Stephanie before going to his job. A worker for the Whittenberg Construction and Engineering Co., Klaber reported that day to the site of a garage in downtown Louisville.

Soon he was busy inside his safety box atop the ninth floor, operating a tower crane. As Klaber began to ease a ½-ton concrete panel into the air, a sudden gust of wind caught the heavy slab. The pannel slammed into Klaber's safety box where it was poised on the edge of the building's skeleton. The box flipped over the edge of the garage, sending Klaber plummeting, upside-down.

Forty-seven feet later Klaber landed on the fifth floor, impaled by a thick steel rod. Though the rod had broken his fall, his face made impact. Part of his nose and facial skin were torn off. When EMS workers arrived, rescuers freed Klaber from the flooring by severing the rod from the concrete. Klaber was taken to Humana Hospital University with the rod still imbedded from his chest to his groin. Surgeons removed the rod in a six-hour operation. Additionally, parts of his nose and lip were implanted into his left arm to keep those tissues alive until reconstructive surgery could be attempted.

It wasn't long before Klaber became known among his doctors as their "miracle man." When they removed the rod, they discovered to their amazement that no major bodily organs had been injured. The steel had passed within a fraction of an inch of his heart and lungs. And though most of his trunk had been implanted with the grimy rod, Klaber never developed an infection.

The physicians had never before tried a similar tissue salvaging procedure, so they gave Klaber only 10% odds that his nose and facial skin could be replaced. Klaber remembers joking with the surgeon, "With my record, let's give it a 95% chance." Sure enough, today his face is repaired with scars barely visible. After just one month in the hospital, Klaber was released in time to celebrate Christmas with his family.

The Klabers joyfully worshiped with

their church family on Christmas morning. They attend Eastern Gate Baptist Church in Long Run Association. Mike Routh is pastor. Klaber has been a charter member since the church was constituted in 1979. He is on the church council and is chairman of the deacons, trustees and building committee.

Eastern Gate and other Christian friends provided tremendous support to the Klaber family after the accident. The day Klaber fell 27 people gathered in the chapel to pray. Mrs. Klaber described the fellowship as "very close knit." A church family can be "as close as a real family," she says. Members kept in daily contact with the Klabers, and one man visited the hospital every day of Klaber's month-long stay. A neighboring congregation, Little Flock Baptist Church, called daily to check on the family. The Klabers were flooded with cards and calls from many people in other cities and states. Often well-wishers described special prayer meetings in their own churches where Klaber had been lifted up.

Those prayers as well as their own strengthened the Klabers throughout the ordeal. Klaber remembers uttering the only prayer time would afford as he plunged; "God help me!" He claims he felt no fear, pain or impact as he crashed to a landing. "I felt the Lord had a featherbed for me to land on, and wherever I landed I would be OK. God completely took over." When asked about the lack of pain, he continued, "I've had a toothache that hurt worse. God must have taken it all away, or I couldn't have stood it."

After Klaber withstood the initial surgery, physicians told him they were amazed that he never went into shock despite the trauma and blood loss. "They said he seemed at peace," Mrs. Klaber recalled. "And that state helped his healing." Saying she is generally prone to panic in such situations, Mrs. Klaber is still surprised that she remained so calm. "It never entered my mind that he might die."

During his hospitalization Klaber remained a proof positive of the power of God. He openly shared his faith with medical personnel and news reporters. Just five days after the accident Klaber granted an interview with a Louisville TV station "to let people know I was all right. I said it was a miracle and the Lord had saved me." When the interview was aired that evening, the Klabers



Klaber relaxes at home.

were delighted to find every statement of faith intact, despite necessary editing in other places.

Did Klaber believe in miracles before he became one?

"I've always thought the Lord could do anything," he replied. "To the Lord, a miracle like saving my life was nothing. He does miracles every day. It all boils down to faith." Yet Klaber believes such faith is possible for anyone. "We never really know how much faith we

have until we have to show it."

Not one to back down from showing it, Klaber returned to work in March. The life-saving rod is at home in his most interesting conversation piece. His only concern about going back to the job was that he might have a fear of heights. He has found, however, that God removed that fear as well. Except for the promise of several more reconstructive surgeries for his face, Klaber enjoys a routine life once more.

Perhaps the family's faith is best summed up in a poem written by daughter Stephanie. She read it to Klaber in the worship service on Father's Day.

Some say there is no such thing as miracles.

I know there is.

Would my father have lived if not for a miracle?

I think not.

Some say that it was just luck or coincidence,

but I know it wasn't.

The Lord was watching that November day

when he fell five stories on a steel bar

and was alive to tell me about it just a few days later.

And the next time someone says to me that there are no such things as miracles

I'll remember this one thing.

I believe

because I talk to one every day.

Yellow Creek Baptist observes centennial

Yellow Creek Baptist Church, Daviess-McLean Association, observed its centennial Aug. 5-6. The celebration was opened Saturday evening at 5:30 p.m. with a choral presentation and testimonies followed with fellowship around the table. The highlight of the evening was "A Walk Down Memory Lane" with a slide presentation of both past and present, narrated by Melvin Pagan.

Sunday services opened with Sunday school and call to worship at 10:30 a.m., Don Zuberer, past pastor presiding, giving a brief history of the church. Mrs. Carye Abell, oldest member of the church, read Psalm 96 which has been read each decade since the organization of the church in 1889. M. R. Cherry of Nova Scotia, Canada, a former pastor, delivered the message.

Following the morning services dinner was served on the lawn. The afternoon session was called together at 2 p.m. with welcome and introductions. Jim Hawkins brought greetings from the state convention; James Spaulding gave an inspirational report from Daviess-McLean Association. Special music was presented by various groups of the church.

Guest speaker of the afternoon was a former member of the church, Wendell H. Ford, United States senator.

Greetings were given from former pastors Wesley Hanson and Billy Roby and Don Zuberer gave the closing remarks.

Yellow Creek Church was organized in 1889. W. H. Dawson preached each Saturday night before the second Sunday of the month at Yellow Creek schoolhouse, four miles east of Owensboro on highway 144 in the Thruston community. Since enough people were interested in having a local church, Mar. 20, 1889, Dawson read

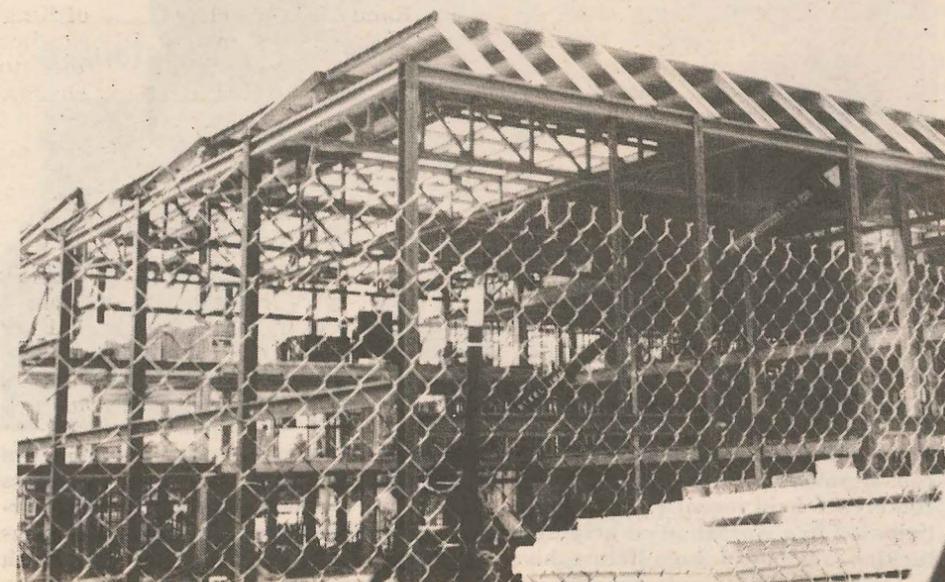
Acts 2:37-47 which resulted in the church organization with 28 members. Aug. 6, 1889, the church was received into the Daviess-McLean Association of Kentucky Baptists and has remained a member in good standing until the present time.

The first sanctuary was erected and dedicated in the summer of 1889. In 1937 a wing was added on each side of the building for Sunday school rooms. The growth was so apparent by Mar. 17, 1964, plans were drawn for a new sanctuary which was used until 1984 with the addition of educational rooms and a fellowship hall.

In May 1963 a bond burning and dedication day was held to celebrate the church having paid the entire indebtedness. More growth demanded more room. On Sept. 18, 1983, ground was broken for a new worship center with a seating capacity of 850. The total cost was nearly \$700,000. In 1985 a church was dedicated in Haiti and named Yellow Creek Baptist Church. Yellow Creek donated \$7440 toward the building of that church. The latest extension of the church is a mission point on Highway 60 East in Lamp Lite Mobil Home Park under the leadership of John and Edna Payne.

In 100 years the church membership has grown from 28 to 1290. Since moving into the new sanctuary in June 1984, there have been 465 additions to the church. The budget for 1989 is \$271,990. The total value of all property and furnishings would be approximately \$1,500,000. The present building is composed of segments of each building program since 1948.

The present status as a church owes much to its total heritage. A special feature of the afternoon was the burning of the bond to clear the entire indebtedness of the last five years.



Klaber's crew is currently at work on the campus of Southern Seminary.

mountains to the mississippi



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

Waiting in the wings

I grew up in a church which majored on families and young people. We had an active youth council and it was considered an honor to be elected to it. We didn't have Six Flags, Opryland or Kings Island to run to in our pre-theme park teenage days, but we had lots and lots of hayrides. These were supplemented in the hours not in Sunday school, Training Union, worship, prayer meeting and youth choir with outings at the church camp, church family week at a mountain retreat, music week at Ridgecrest, swimming pool parties, picnics, movies and after church fellowships.

The summer of 1955 I especially remember fondly. That year the youth director and the minister of music combined their talents to stage Cornelia Otis Skinner's *Our Hearts Were Young and Gay*. The comedy focused on the misadventures of two American girls spending a summer in Europe. Yours truly had no speaking part but handled offstage sound effects. I had a delightful time experimenting with various props in an attempt to make the sounds believable. We played to a packed fellowship hall. And when the final curtain fell, several youth had been bitten by the smear of greasepaint and the glare of footlights. The only way to quench our thirst was to do it over again.

The following summer we planned a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's light operetta *HMS Pinafore*. When the roles were handed out, I landed a small speaking part. We spent most of the season memorizing, rehearsing, designing sets and costumes. The response was so great I think we gave two or three performances.

Our family moved away before the subsequent summer's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*. But the pattern was set and more productions followed.

Today it's common for churches with a few hundred members to stage youth-oriented productions. But then it was rather a novelty. Now there's a variety of youth musicals and dramas with Christian themes available.

Young people who belong to churches that major on their youth are very fortunate. Let us not discount singles, seniors or any other group. Let us also admit that the church which recognizes tomorrow's talent lies in today's youth and acts upon it does a good work in Jesus' name.

I'm grateful for a visionary congregation that saw future leaders waiting in the wings and gave them opportunities to develop the whole person in Christ. I believe more of us have stayed by our values and remained true to the church because the church manifest that interest in us.



Northside Baptist Church mission team.

congregations

A group of 10 Baptist Men and Baptist Young Men from **Northside Baptist Church, Princeton**, Caldwell-Lyon Association, went to **Minerva (Ky.) Baptist Church** to install a baptistry and help remodel the church. A group of men from Minerva also helped in the project. The congregation of Northside raised the money and furnished the baptistry and materials. Paul Gray is pastor of Minerva. Thirty-two young people and adults from Northside traveled to **Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Bracken Association**, in June. They led vacation Bible school and did a people search. They enrolled 116 in VBS and had an average attendance of 93. The entire county was covered in the people search. A total of 850 homes were visited. Lynn Bertram is pastor of Mt. Olivet. Ted Lacey is youth minister at Northside and David Royalty is pastor.

The Cathedrals will be in concert Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. at **Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Warren Association**. Jim Haskell is pastor.

Nortonville Baptist Church, Little Bethel Association, will dedicate new facilities Sept. 10 at 3 p.m. The service will include guest speakers, music and refreshments. Kenneth B. Bolin Jr. is pastor.

Immanuel Baptist Church, Glasgow, observed its first anniversary with Founder's Day services Aug. 13. Guest speaker was Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga. An open house and reception honoring Lewis was held Aug. 12. Jewel R. Pruitt is pastor.

Garrett Baptist Church, Enterprise Association, observed its 50th anniversary July 23. Kenneth Solmons is pastor.

Severns Valley Baptist Church, Severns Valley Association, dedicated a new educational building and remodeled facilities in two morning services Aug. 13. Lay leaders of the congregation assisted pastor J. Howard Cobble in recognition of the completion of work. Open house was held after the services.

Beechmont Baptist Church, Long Run Association, passed a resolution opposing the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages in Iroquois Park Amphitheater. Members further resolved to request elected officials to end the existing sale of alcohol in the park.

Foster Avenue Baptist Church, Long Run Association, began **Ash Street Baptist Chapel** in Germantown. The chapel meets the first and third Thursdays each month and is sponsored by the Foster Avenue Brotherhood and WMU. Kenneth Wrather is pastor of Foster Avenue.

revivals

L. D. Kennedy from Friendship Baptist Church, Campbellsville, Taylor Association, was evangelist in revival at **Cox's Creek Baptist Church, Nelson Association**. Pat Stone was music leader. Special music featured the Journeymen Quartet. There were 15 decisions. Richard M. Shields is pastor.

Faith Baptist Church, Boones Creek Association, had one profession of faith during revival. Cova Duvall was evangelist. Samuel Glen Ferguson is pastor.

Gary Kirby was evangelist for revival at **Bald Rock Baptist Church, Laurel River Association**. There were 12 rededications and six professions of faith. Arthur Bange is pastor.

New Salem Baptist Church, Laurel River Association, had four rededications during revival. Charles Rice was evangelist. Bob Steadman is pastor.

personnel



Katzman



Harton

July 31, Nicholasville Baptist Church, Elkhorn Association, called Thomas W. Katzman as pastor. He is a graduate of Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, with a BA in religious studies and is currently attending Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He has been interim pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Leitchfield.

Katzman is married to Julie Dawn Corbin, granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Hill Mackey of Nicholasville. Mrs. Katzman is a graduate of Western Kentucky University with a degree in computer science.

Katzman began his duties at Nicholasville Aug. 20.

Mike Harton is interim minister of education at St. Matthews Baptist Church, Long Run Association. **Malcolm Marler** resigned as minister of pastoral care at St. Matthews. He and his wife Penny reside in Hartford, Conn., where she will teach at Hartford Theological Seminary.

Palatine Baptist Church, Taylor County Association, called **Landon Hadley** as pastor.

Tony Beech is part time youth minister at First Baptist Church, Leitchfield, Grayson County Association.

Pilot Knob Baptist Church, Tate's Creek Association, called **Gary Parker** as pastor.

Rosedale Baptist Church, Tate's Creek Association, called **Jeff Prosser** as youth minister.

Tony Rose resigned as pastor of Columbia Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association. He goes to Lake Worth, Fla.



Shirley Helton of Somerset, left, visits with **Esther Burroughs**, national evangelism consultant with women for the Home Mission Board, at a national mass evangelism conference held recently in Nashville. Mrs. Helton was one of 50 women who participated in a workshop on helping women refine their witnessing skills. The Kentuckian is wife of **Johnie Helton**, bivocational pastor of Buck Creek Baptist Church in Somerset. The couple were among 20 Kentuckians who attended the three-day conference sponsored by the Home Mission Board.

Charlie G. Bridges resigned as pastor of Summit Hills Baptist Church, Long Run Association, effective Aug. 21. A native of Georgia, he has accepted the call as pastor of Radium Springs Baptist Church, Albany, Ga.

Darell Eldridge is new pastor of Oak Ridge Baptist Church, Crittenden Association.

Brent Gupton is new pastor of Poplar Grove Baptist Church, Russell County Association. He goes from Harrods Fork Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association.

Don Hall resigned as minister of music at First Baptist Church, Flatwoods, Greenup Association.

ordinations

Chuck Beighle was licensed to the ministry by Turner Ridge Baptist Church, Crittenden Association, Aug. 13. Norman R. Workman is pastor.

Olivet Baptist Church, West Union Association, ordained **Steve Fellows** and **Bob Williford** deacons July 31. R. Tommy Tucker is pastor.

Greg Humpert, pastor of Berean Baptist Church, Three Forks Association, was ordained to the ministry at Sunshine Baptist Church, Three Forks Association.

Anthony Eugene Gilbert was ordained to the ministry by Thixton Lane Baptist Church, Long Run Association, June 25. He is associate pastor of the church and a MDiv student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. Charge was brought by Don Christman, chairman of deacons.

Arnold Rider was ordained to the ministry by Decoursey Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association, Aug. 13. Pastor is R. Gene Livingston.

deaths

Cartell Burdine, retired pastor and member of Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset, Pulaski Association, passed away Apr. 24. He pastored churches in Pulaski and Laurel counties and attended Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville.

associations

Little Bethel Association sent eight men representing six churches to Sandusky, Oh., to replace the old roof of Fellowship Baptist Church.

The association learned of the need at the monthly executive board meeting. Noble Cobb, pastor of Victory Baptist Church, had preached two revivals for the church and it was through this relationship that the project was born.

The project received wide support in the association with 11 churches and five individuals giving donations to purchase materials and cover other expenses needed on the trip.

The effort was coordinated by John Ashby, director of missions; Paul Shaffer, Brotherhood director; and Ken Bolin, missions committee chairman.



Five directors of missions in West Kentucky met recently to plan for purchasing television ads for "Here's Hope Jesus Cares for You" simultaneous revivals in 1990. They are asking 12 associations in Kentucky, Illinois and Tennessee to give \$1000 each to buy television time. The planning committee includes (l-r): Eugene Enlow, coordinator for "Here's Hope Revival 1990," Kentucky Baptist Convention; Terry Sills, director of missions, Blood River Association; Ray Provow, director of evangelism, Blood River Association; Charles Simmons, director of missions, Graves County Association; Tom Lewis, director of missions, West Union Association; Homer Havner, director of missions, Union Association, Metropolis, Ill.

The 100 x 40 foot roof was completed in 2½ days at no cost to Fellowship Church.

Participants were director of missions Ashby; Mike Morgan, Nebo Baptist Church; Carroll and Scott Kelly, Pleas-

ant Valley Baptist Church; Glenn Ford, Liberty Baptist Church; Paul Shaffer, Hanson Baptist Church; Noble Cobb, pastor, Victory Baptist Church; Ken Bolin, pastor, Nortonville Baptist Church.

Victory Memorial Baptist Church: proclaiming the gospel for 100 years

It was summer 1889 and a seminary student, W. A. Mansfield, and some ladies from Fourth and Oak Baptist Church, Louisville, went door to door inviting children and adults to study God's word in the park. Thus was the beginning of Oakdale Baptist Mission. A hundred years later the gospel is still being proclaimed across the street from the park which is still there.

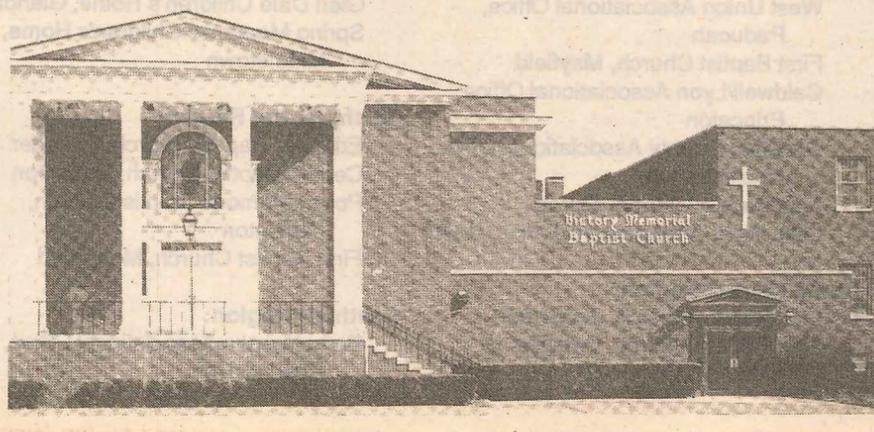
Aug. 6, 1919, the name of the church was changed to Victory Memorial Baptist Church in commemoration of the victory of World War I and the fact that all men who went to war from Victory Memorial came back alive. The church also commissioned a stained glass window depicting Jesus holding up a wounded World War I soldier. This distinctive stained glass window is the only one known to be in a church in America.

Through the years the group has grown to a church of over 1000 members. Victory Memorial has been greatly involved in missions and outreach. During the flood of Louisville in 1937, the church opened its doors to the people made homeless by the rising waters of the

Ohio River. J. B. Head, pastor of Victory Memorial from 1927-39, was put in charge of an emergency hospital and led in flood relief in the south end of Louisville. He headed an organization that ran so smoothly he was commended by the mayor of Louisville and the national Red Cross.

C. Michael Baker recently began his third year as pastor. Under his leadership the church has been almost completely refurbished and additional property has been purchased for parking.

Leaders of Long Run Association and Kentucky Baptist Convention are invited to attend the 100th celebration Sept. 17. Harold Wilcox, now with the Home Mission Board, will bring the morning message. The social committee of Victory Memorial will provide lunch. The day will conclude with a 2 p.m. service which will dedicate a prayer room and the Head/Cralle library. These rooms have been completely remodeled. The Hettie Simpson historical room will be open to all who would like to view photographs and memorabilia of the last 100 years. Pastor emeritus J. B. Head, 89, will preach at the afternoon service.



Bill D. Whittaker
President
Clear Creek Baptist Bible College
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek chronicle

Cowboy Dave

Six-year-old Noah Foley doesn't know what he wants to be when he grows up but he is sure about his father: "My dad wants to be a cowboy when he grows up." Second-year student Dave Foley has a part time job at a Bell County stables and this summer won ribbons at area horse shows. When the family moved to Clear Creek, he also brought his quarter horse. Our family recently got a horse and Foley helped us fence a field adjoining the campus. While we dug post holes I had the opportunity to hear his pilgrimage. He hasn't always been home on the range.

Born in Covington, Foley was placed in a children's home at age five and remained there until age 13, when he went to live with a sister. In high school he started using alcohol and other drugs, eventually becoming a pusher. He quit school in the 11th grade and did factory work for seven years.

Foley married Yevonna Jones, Walton, in 1980 and moved to a farm. Alcohol use worsened and after leaving his wife for a week he decided to quit drinking. "Positive thinking helped me quit drinking but a year later positive thinking convinced me I could start again," Foley explained.

At the factory a friend witnessed to him and at home his daughter talked about Zacchaeus. He resisted a commitment until his will resolved to "give it all to Jesus."

The transformation brought a desire to share with former drug partners. Foley remembers pleading with one dealer to repent and trust Christ. He listened for a while and then reached in his pocket for a pistol and said, "I've heard all I want to hear Dave."

The call to preach came two years after conversion. "Many men think God can't use them but I know he can use anyone." The Foleys were introduced to Clear Creek by a graduate who pastored in his association. Foley has a workshop in the maintenance department. "They say I dig the best ditch!" His wife cares for the campus flowers. Both use ministry skills as members of Hosman Baptist Church.

David Foley continues to "grow up" in Christ. He might yet be a cowboy helping start churches in the Australian outback or American west. His commitment reflects the best Clear Creek spirit—"wherever he leads, I'll go."

viewpoint

On placement

by T. A. Prickett

Baptists are facing a crisis. I do not refer to the often talked about controversy that has swirled around us for 10 years. Nor do I speak of the economic short fall in the churches and the resulting financial crunch which some institutions and agencies have experienced.

The crisis to which I refer is the crisis among pastors and staff members over the need for a clear and effective placement procedure. Without a doubt, we have the poorest system of placement to be found anywhere. Ours could be described as a systemless system. We have no real system of placement. We have no prescribed way to move.

Our strong belief in the autonomy of the local church is perhaps one reason for our systemless system. Because every church is autonomous, we do not feel comfortable setting up a system of recommending and suggesting names of men to churches who could fill their leadership positions. Denominational officers are particularly sensitive at this point. I understand this sensitivity. However, we need to move beyond this sensitivity to another sensitivity—that of the hurting pastor or staff person who feels a need or desire to move to a new place of service.

There are two situations here that

need to be aired. How does one get an opportunity to move? One answer which has been and still is heard is "Do your work where you are and God will not forget you!" I believe this is true, but it certainly is not the basis for a placement program.

I remember going to a state convention meeting some years ago and hearing a prominent denominational leader say these very words. I was not encouraged by those remarks; I was so depressed that I wrote that particular speaker to say that the denomination should address this issue rather than dealing with it in such a trite and superficial way. The reply I got back served only to deepen my depression and to cause me some real anger at my denomination for having such an uncaring attitude toward me and my fellow pastors and staff members who were hurting with no place to turn.

What can a person do who feels honestly that he needs a new challenge? As it stands today, he can contact some friends. Sometimes they will help, but a few weeks later these people who are busy with their own ministry will forget about their hurting friend.

We can contact some acquaintances in denominational offices. They will help, but if their first recommendations do not take, that will be the end of it.

They too are busy and will not remember to continue to share your name. This is true, to a degree, even when there is a state convention placement office.

The second issue which needs to be highlighted is the issue of age. Frequently I hear of search committees who set age limits. I do not remember hearing of but one church that said it wanted someone over 50. Most of these committees are looking for someone who is 35-45. That, of course, is the prerogative of the church. But why do churches think a person over 50 cannot serve? I am over 50 and I feel that I have never been more prepared to serve a church than I am at this moment.

It is interesting that this attitude is not reflected in our selection of national leaders. Our last two U. S. presidents were at or beyond retirement age when they were elected. There are numerous senators and representatives serving in both national and state legislatures who are in their 60s and 70s.

Why is it that in our political life maturity is desirable but in our church life maturity is a curse? I do not want this to be seen as a treatise against youth but I do want this to be an appeal for us to keep an open mind toward those who have lived and experienced life. It may be that in those years a person may have learned some valuable lessons that

just might be helpful to a church.

Placement is a critical issue among us today. What can we do?

Because of the autonomy of the local church we cannot set up arbitrary placement procedures but we can take the subject of placement out of the closet and begin to talk about it. We can speak and write about it so that the awareness level of Baptists will be raised. I believe if Baptists know about the sad state of placement, they will, within themselves, do something about it.

Who should speak about this issue? Certainly not the person who is interested in moving. Perhaps key leaders and pastors could speak of this in the context of their leadership among us, thus helping the church and its committees to be aware of some of the weaknesses and problems with our placement procedures. The placement office of the state convention could speak and write about these issues, thus making churches and church committees aware of them and, incidentally, of the services available to churches in the area of placement.

The need is for someone to speak and for someone to listen. I have spoken; I hope someone has been listening!

T. A. Prickett is pastor, Seven Hills Baptist Church, Owensboro

It takes a lot of food to feed our children. You can help-- by giving through the September Food Shower.

The food shower provides for our children.

- Each September, the KBHC Women's Advisory Board sponsors the food shower, which helps feed our youth throughout the year.

We invite individuals and groups to contribute food, personal items or financial gifts.

- Suggested foods include canned foods, mixes, potatoes, dried beans, cereals, flour, sugar and other items that will not spoil. (We

cannot accept homemade or home canned foods.)

- Our youth need personal items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste and deodorant. Remember most of our youth are ages 12 - 16.

You may donate items during the entire month of September.

- Pack all items in boxes with tops.

- Bring gifts to the nearest regional pick-up point. We will collect items from these points and deliver them to our homes and temporary care shelters.

- Send financial gifts to Robin Oldham, director, Development/Communications Services, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, 10801 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, Kentucky 40243.

- If you have more questions, call Robin Oldham at our toll free number, 1-800-456-1386.

We need your gifts.

Regional pick-up points

Western Region:

- Green Valley Associational Office, Henderson
- Muhlenberg County Associational Office, Central City
- Little Bethel Associational Office, Madisonville
- Daviess-McLean Associational Office, Owensboro
- Ohio County Associational Office, Hartford
- Ohio Valley Associational Office, Sturgis
- Blackford Associational Office, Hawesville

Southwestern Region:

- West Union Associational Office, Paducah
- First Baptist Church, Mayfield
- Caldwell/Lyon Associational Office, Princeton
- Christian County Associational Office, Hopkinsville
- First Baptist Church, Murray
- Little River Associational Office, Cadiz

South Central Region:

- First Baptist Church, Somerset
- First Baptist Church, Danville
- First Baptist Church, Greensburg

Central Region:

- Glen Dale Children's Home, Glendale
- Spring Meadows Children's Home, Middletown

North Central Region:

- Erlanger Baptist Church, Erlanger
- Central Baptist Church, Lexington
- Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington
- First Baptist Church, Morehead

Southern Region:

- Bethel/Logan Associational Office, Russellville

Warren Associational Office,

- Bowling Green
- Calvary Baptist Church, Glasgow

Southeastern Region:

- Central Baptist Church, Corbin
- First Baptist Church, Hazard
- First Baptist Church, Barbourville
- Three Forks Associational Office, Viper

Northeastern Region:

- Unity Baptist Church, Ashland
- First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg
- Campton Baptist Church, Campton
- Pike Associational Office, Pikeville



Lexington Southern Baptists raise \$6000 for homeless

by Kima Jude
State Correspondent

Southern Baptists in Lexington raised almost \$6000 for their city's homeless July 13-15 during a tent crusade.

Participants in the event plan to make the effort an annual event to aid the city's homeless.

Five churches in Elkhorn Association joined together to conduct the summer camp meeting with a two fold purpose of spiritual awakening and raising money for the homeless.

The idea was conceived as an offshoot of the Christian life committee of Elkhorn Association, which addresses moral issues and has targeted the homeless as a top priority.

Participants included South Elkhorn, Cane Run, North View, Highlands and First Baptist churches.

Eight months ago the five pastors involved began to discuss and pray about a shared vision of helping the homeless. Their churches embraced the idea of conducting a three day outdoor crusade with offerings to be given to the homeless.

Each church contributed equally to the \$2000 operating budget, which was used to rent the tent and for publicity.

An outdoor meeting was proposed to generate interest, and local political celebrities were enlisted as guest speakers before pastors preached. All who participated did so on a volunteer basis and were not compensated. Guest speakers included Lt. Gov. Brereton Jones, Urban County councilwoman Pam Miller and University of Kentucky baseball coach Keith Madison.

"I think this will set a pattern for how Southern Baptists can really be involved in the moral issues of our community," said James Shaw, pastor of South Elk-

horn Baptist Church and chairman of the association's Christian life committee. Shaw was instrumental in organizing the crusade.

Shaw said when Southern Baptists show themselves to be informed and involved in moral issues they "show the true sense of the gospel of Christ."

An average of 500 persons attended nightly and meetings resulted in a number of decisions as well. The churches had set a goal of raising \$5000 for the city's homeless through offerings.

Shaw said the money will be given to the Christian life committee who will consult with the mayor's task force on the homeless for distribution of the money. Local agencies such as the Salvation Army will be allocated money as need be.

Shaw said he hopes to see the plight of the homeless become a church effort with the city led by Southern Baptists.

Harry Hargis, pastor of Cane Run Baptist Church and a member of the mayor's task force on the homeless, said a third emphasis in the meeting was the fellowship among Baptist churches. He said the meeting was the first type in Elkhorn Association's history.

An additional five churches have already expressed interest in joining next year's effort, according to Hargis. Shaw said he hoped as many as 25 would be involved in next year's event, for which planning would begin the next month.

The first night's session focused on spiritual awakening with teaching and preaching by Terry Murphy and Harry



Lexington Southern Baptists raised almost \$6000 for the city's homeless at the tent crusade July 13-15 led by five congregations.

Hargis. The second night's theme was the second coming of Christ with teaching and preaching by Jim Woolums and Jim Stanhope. The last evening was an evangelistic thrust with Shaw preaching.

A five-church choir provided music with special music by various others.

Councilwoman Miller lauded the churches' efforts for the city's more than 800 homeless, 50 percent of whom are children. "It's up to all of us to remember the parable of the good Samaritan.

Shaw said he hoped the effort would "broaden the eyes of the community as to who Southern Baptists are."

Young writer's story witnesses for Christ

by Breena Kent Paine

Christy Wilton prayed her story would be chosen to win the 1988-89 Young Authors Contest—not because she wanted an award, but because "she wanted to "be a witness."

Her prayer was answered, as the 12-year-old's story of her conversion and baptism won first place in the contest's nonfiction division for Louisiana. The story was published in the New Orleans Times Picayune, and she won a medal and certificates of achievement.

"The main reason why I wanted to (enter) was because I knew if my story won, it would go in the newspaper," said Miss Wilton. "I wanted to be a witness to the people who would read it. Many people might not go to church, but they may read the newspaper."

A fifth-grade student at Jean Gordon Elementary School in New Orleans, Miss Wilton is the daughter of Rod and Irene Wilton of Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Her father is a student at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

"I think she is probably one of the most eager young ladies I have had," said her teacher, Suzy Owens. "Not only is she bright but the things she doesn't know she makes it a challenge to (find out). She's a perfect example—polite, sincere. The whole family's like that."

Miss Wilton also "likes to make everything right," continued Miss

Owens, who feels Miss Wilton has been a positive influence and an encouragement to other students. When she notices someone is sad or has a problem, "she'll write you a little note and she'll always put her own artistic (touch) to it," something that has touched many of her classmates.

After entering her composition in the contest, Miss Wilton said, "I prayed a few nights in a row that . . . it would be chosen not only because it was good but because it would be a witness."

The winning story, along with others Miss Wilton had written, was published in *Jean Gordon Expressions*, a book of students' compositions put out by her school. "Everyone (in my class) lined up one by one to read it because my teacher opened the book up to that page," said Miss Wilton. "One of the persons in my class, I think, . . . got touched by my story." Although she does not plan to be an author "when I grow up," Miss Wilton likes to make every composition she writes count in sharing Jesus with other people.

"The stories I've written have all had to do with church and the Lord. One story about an old lady was about kindness. I like to put a lesson in each one of my stories."

This is her winning story:
This is a true story about an experience which I had in the country of Israel. This was a very special occasion because my dad, who is a pastor, baptized me in the River Jordan. This is the same river (in which) our Lord Jesus Christ was baptized. This ex-

perience of mine happened as a result of another experience which took place about three to four years ago.

My dad, who was the pastor of a church in South Africa, preached a powerful message. It said at the end that if anyone wanted to have Jesus come to "live" in their heart, they should go to their room and just pray to him and ask him to come in and take full control of their life.

That was the night God really spoke to me and when I came home, I did just what my dad suggested.

I believe that from that moment on a change slowly took place in my life and I want only to do the things that will make God happy. Often I make mistakes but my heavenly Father forgives me when I ask him to.

We left South Africa in November 1987 to come and live in America. My dad wanted to study at New Orleans Baptist Seminary. On our way we traveled through many countries. Israel was first. What an exciting time we had as a family.

One of my highlights in Israel was my baptism on Nov. 6. We all woke up early and after making our bunk beds in the youth hostel, which was on a high mountain above the Sea of Galilee, we walked outside and looked at the lovely view. Dad took me aside and read some verses from the Bible to me. They talked about Jesus' baptism so many . . . years ago.

We drove down to the River Jordan. The water was cold and there was a light drizzle but my heart was warm and God showered me with his blessing. (BP)

Quarterly Review killed, assembly, print rates up

Items related to budget, publishing projects and changes in periodicals received the attention of Baptist Sunday School Board trustees at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center Aug. 7-9.

The 1989-90 budget of \$183,694,000 was approved, representing an increase of 6.9 percent over projected income for 1988-89.

Revenues for the first nine months of 1988-89 are behind budget expectations but 3.6 percent ahead of last year. Bright spots in the financial picture included Holman Bible Publishers, where sales are 4.5 percent ahead of last year, Church Information Systems computer equipment and software and the Baptist Telecommunication Network.

An average price increase for church literature of 7.0 percent was approved by trustees to be effective in April 1990.

The church program organizations committee made 16 recommendations to trustees regarding changes in selected periodicals, including deletion of *The Quarterly Review* magazine, published by the Church Administration Department.

In other business, trustees approved an average increase of 5.4 percent for 1990 rates at Ridgecrest (N. C.) and Glorieta Baptist conference centers. Also, trustees approved \$132,224 for use over the next two years to carry out a year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Sunday School Board. (BP)

baptist forum

Appeal for reconsideration

We, as members of the Crescent Hill Baptist Church, are writing to express our profound concern about the recent Foreign Mission Board trustee action to deny the appointment of Greg and Katrina Pennington as Southern Baptist career missionaries.

The action of the trustee committee undermines the Baptist doctrines of freedom and competency of the soul and the autonomy of the local church. The current FMB policy on ordination, which says ordination is a local church issue and is in and of itself neither a qualification nor disqualification, is proper; it respects these basic Baptist doctrines.

In bowing to associational pressure, the trustee action has either adopted an associational interpretation of scripture as its own or it has chosen to bend to the pressure of that group. This action raises alarming questions. Is it considered a character flaw for a person or church to pursue conscience in face of opposition of the local association? If Mrs. Pennington is psychologically, relationally or spiritually unfit for missionary service would such problems not have been identified in the extensive process of candidate evaluation? Do trustees place more credibility in letters of protest than in careful staff and local church evaluation?

We are perplexed and grieved. What assurances can you provide us that a woman whose ministry has been affirmed by a local congregation by ordination will be considered for missionary

appointment on the same basis as a woman who has not been ordained? Can you give us any assurance that our congregation's sons and daughters will have as much opportunity for FMB appointment in the future as they have in the past? Can you help us understand how your decision has helped Southern Baptist foreign mission efforts and the task of world evangelization?

Crescent Hill Baptist Church,
Louisville
Unanimously voted in business session,
July 19, 1989

Why not eliminate ordination?

We must soon adopt a more biblical viewpoint of "ordination" as a setting apart of a person called of God to do a certain ministry at a certain time and in a certain place. The notion of a lifetime separation for and elevation to a position of spiritual authority and leadership cannot be continued with theological integrity. All of the disciples of Christ are ministers and there is no biblical distinction between "clergy and laity." There is only a distinction between function and ministry of persons.

When the leaders in Enon (Okla.) Baptist Association stated that the ordination of Mrs. Pennington "violated clear biblical teaching," I would agree. I would also state that Mr. Pennington's ordination did the same. Obviously, my agreement with these associational leaders is from an entirely different perspective—mine on ordination practice and theirs on the gender of the ordained

person.

As long as we believe in the priesthood of all believers we must accept the fact that God is free (even without our consent!) to call whomever is responsive. And when God calls a woman to a special ministry, how like us to negate God's action. (I believe that is called "sin!") Our inconsistencies are also showing when we admit women to our seminaries (after requiring a "statement of call" and references that verify their suitability for ministry) and then refuse to provide them full opportunity and encouragement to follow their calling upon graduation.

When our prevailing convention leadership literally interprets and literally practices the teachings of I Cor. 11 and I Tim. 2 regarding "biblical fashions" for their wives and the other women in their churches, then I could take more seriously their interpretation of I Cor. 11 and other of their favorite proof texts regarding the role of women.

Let us no longer eliminate persons who are called and capable and willing to serve as missionaries. Rather let's eliminate the whole traditional concept and practice of ordination that is now making it impossible for some persons to live out their calling from God. It seems to me that ordination is a "luxury" we can no longer afford.

A. Jack Green,
Minister of Education
First Baptist Church
Shreveport, La.

Blessings in small things

The next time you pick up a phone and get a dial tone, count that a blessing. Or if you dial and get a ring immediately and you can actually hear each other, count that as two blessings. Or, at night when you turn the lights on, if they are bright enough to read by, blessing number three. If you get mail and it took less than three days to travel across several states, more blessings. A newspaper purchased today and dated today instead of one to three days ago also should be considered another blessing.

All these things may sound trivial to the average Kentuckian, but let me assure you that after two and one-half

months in the bush of southern Africa, they have gained in value immensely. No, we are not homesick—we love it here. It's just that we now realize how little we appreciated things in Kentucky.

Our four-street village here has one phone line into it. When the operator tells you the line is busy, she means the line is busy.

That is, if you can get her to answer your cranking at all (note cranking, not dialing). She may be preoccupied or talking or just not interested in you. Though she is just across the block she may as well be in another country.

Mail is another matter. Often we get letters on the same day that were mailed a month apart. Yesterday we got one from October 1988, last week from November 1988. Once we went eight days without mail because no one wanted to sort it. We hear the Army was finally called in to get their attention.

Let's face it. With all its faults America is blessed in many seemingly small ways. Its phone system is the best in the world, the post office works hard and the utility companies serve us well. Our cup runneth over. If you don't think so come walk with us a few days. I think you would change your mind. There are blessings we enjoy each day yet take them for granted. So begin each day by saying aloud "MASI BU LELE KU YESU." That's what the folks here say when they want to praise the Lord.

Gene and Florence Iglehart
Mission Volunteers
Lady Frere, Transkei

We don't like it, either

In Western Recorder issued June 20, 1989 there is an article by Jim Cox on page four titled "Tall Order." Our church voted at its last business meeting, July 5, that as Southern Baptists we do not think that a non-Southern Baptist should be paid for annual parliamentary duties. We also feel that the pay in excess of \$1000 a day is highly extravagant.

Thank you for looking into this concern of ours.

First Baptist Church
Burkesville

Conference on Cults

September 25 & 26

WITNESSING TO JEHOVAH WITNESSES

Rev. Paul Blizard
pastor of First Baptist Church,
Fairdale, KY and former Jehovah Witness

WITNESSING TO MORMONS

Rev. Allen Harrod
pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church
Bellevue, KY and Home Mission Board
trained teacher of Mormonism

Monday, Sept. 25, 1989, 7-9 p.m.
First Baptist Church, Providence, KY

Tuesday, Sept. 26, 1989, 7-9 p.m.
Cadiz Baptist Church, Cadiz, KY

Western Recorder Listening Sessions

Burlington Baptist Church
Burlington, Ky.
Aug. 24 7 p.m.

Severns Valley Baptist Church
Elizabethtown, Ky.
Sept. 7 7 p.m.

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College
Pineville, Ky.
Sept. 21 7 p.m.



Pauline Stegall



Jane Howell



Betty Anderson



Suzanne Darland



Denise Spencer



Chris Barnett



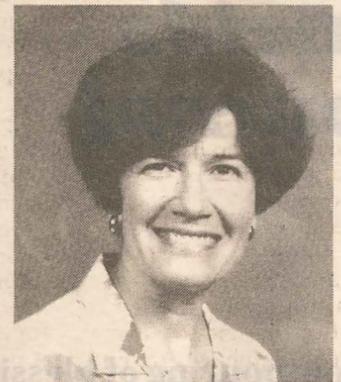
Kima Jude



Glenn Mollette



Beth Wyatt



Virginia Flanagan

We're all in this together

Ten Kentucky Baptists, journalists by trade either vocationally or avocationally, are committed to bringing us informative stories about timely subjects. These 10 Western Recorder state correspondents, strategically situated across the commonwealth, keep Kentucky Baptists abreast of what's going on among their people and their churches.

They're available to help you, your church and your association. You may call or write your regional correspondent with information you'd like to share with readers of your state paper. Ask your church to place your local correspondent on its mailing list for your church mail out. By helping each other, we all do a better job of keeping each other informed.

western recorder

People are important to us





Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

An outpouring of blessing

Some tomato producers near Steubenville Baptist Church and Monticello read of the loss of most of our gardens in the June flood. Early in August they telephoned us and said if we would bring a truck to their fields, they would have picked and waiting 5000 pounds of tomatoes. Several of our men went and had to call back for a second truck for they had picked 10,000 pounds!

We had to send for some of our cooks on "break" after after summer school and before the fall session begins. For the next several days they had a number of our students working from early morning into the night preparing the tomatoes for storage in our walk-in freezers, the largest of which is 2600 cubic feet. We will have a lot of wonderful tomato soup as well as juice through the winter months.

Months ago the Lord put it into the heart of a state policeman who is director of the Okolona Baptist Brotherhood near Nancy in Pulaski County to suggest that the church raise an acre of potatoes for Oneida. Pastor Rollin Bradshaw and a group of the men of the church came some days ago with nearly 100 bushels of large and beautiful potatoes for the girls and boys of Oneida. How wonderful they look in our nearly empty potato cellar built to store thousands of

bushels.

While all this was going on many bushels of sweet corn became ripe. This had been on higher ground and escaped the ravage of the flood waters. The cooks were totally involved getting the tomatoes in the freezers. So our dean of boys, Mr. Underwood, drafted a student crew and he and they worked long hours blanching the corn and putting it into large plastic containers for freezing until needed.

As this work progressed, some of our large sows gave birth to 111 new pigs. There is definitely going to be meat on the Oneida table.

Many acres of corn planted after the flood are growing rapidly and are beautiful. Several acres that survived the flood are also very good. Our farm manager advised me that the late corn could most effectively and efficiently be utilized for silage. In a week's time we have built two beautiful 50 feet high silos, our first. Some professionals came to do the job and several of our boys pitched in to carry materials. They would work until it was totally dark at night.

Ballardsville Baptist Church gave \$15,000 toward the silo project in memory of Mrs. Eppie Whitehouse. At the very hour her son, sister-in-law, her pastor and many friends were scheduled to leave for Oneida for their annual week-long work project, her funeral service was held. She and her husband had been a part of the first Ballardsville work group that worked a week in the summer of 1980.

Pastor and people, including members of Mrs. Whitehouse's family, came on to Oneida four hours later than planned. Early the next morning they were hard at work. How much more lasting will be the silos, holding 520 ton of feed for our cattle, than are flowers, beautiful though they are. Her son "Jeep" said his mother would have loved the silos as she was such a practical woman.

Another major job beautifully accomplished has been the painting of the outside of our 35-year-old gym and largest single classroom building. About six men worked a week. Our students did much work as well, scraping the lower walls, tearing away ivy on the west wall that had grown to nearly the top of the building. Never again will we let ivy get started up a building wall!

In the meantime we are grateful to the hundreds who have sent money to help with food needs and with all the many projects being accomplished. God is so good.



H. C. Chiles
Clear Creek Baptist Bible College
Pineville, KY 40977

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR AUG. 27, 1989

Life and work series

Gaining wisdom

Proverbs 2:6 Before one can expect to receive wisdom and guidance from the Lord, he must reverence and trust him. Acquiring wisdom from the Lord and living in accordance with his expressed will guarantees peace and pleasantness in the Christian pathway. Exercising personal faith in God and reverent yielding of one's life to doing his will constitute a mark of wisdom.

Proverbs 3:5-7, 11-12 Trust conveys the idea that one is conscious of his weakness and therefore turns to the Lord and leans upon him for support. "Heart" refers to the seat of affections and has to do with thinking, loving, feeling, willing and acting.

Since our understanding is fickle and unreliable, we should yield to the divine authority, submit to the divine providence and power, obey the divine commands and depend upon the divine promises.

Having trusted the Lord with our souls, let us praise him with our lips, serve him with our talents and honor him with our gifts.

If we expect God to lead, bless and use us, we must let him determine our thoughts, mold our characters and control our lives.

Proverbs 13:13-14, 20; 15:31-33; 29:1 Rejecting the word of God certainly does not deliver one from accountability

again, pleading for a miracle. Though it has been a reasonably good year—and for the first time in our history, each month will have exceeded one million in Cooperative Program receipts—we are still only 2% ahead of the previous year at the close of July. We need slightly over 4% to meet budget.

To meet budget, August must establish a new record... in fact, a whopping new record of \$2,162,765, which is \$397,319 over last August's record \$1,765,446.

What happens this August will determine whether or not there can be any increase at all in the 1990-91 budget year. In fact, Cooperative Program receipts were so lagging by the end of April, the board delayed the usual August meeting of its business & finance committee until Sept. 7 to provide the time to complete this financial year before projecting the 1990-91 budget.

For every percentage point we fail to meet budget this year we would need to add that to what is budgeted for 1989-

to it. The person who refuses or ignores God's instruction treats himself as of little value, and may be referred to as "a companion of fools." Those who desire to gain additional wisdom which comes from God are admonished to follow his instruction, learn from his discipline and profit by the example of those who live in compliance with his wisdom.

International series

The fulfillment of hope

Ruth 4:9-17 After Naomi and Ruth returned to Naomi's homeland, the story of what took place presents an ancient Hebrew custom, familiar to the Jews but very strange to us. The Hebrew law and custom required that if a man died without an heir, his nearest of kin was to take the position known as the kinsman-redeemer and become the husband of his brother's widow with a hope of having a son to perpetuate the family of the dead husband. Accordingly, Boaz became the redeemer of Ruth. She in turn became his wife. After Boaz and Ruth were married she gave birth to a son. When this son was born all the people rejoiced and praised God. The women neighbors who gathered around Naomi expressed their congratulations and good wishes and praised God for Boaz, the kinsman-redeemer, and paid tribute to Ruth, whose love they declared was better than seven sons. These women named the son Obed, meaning servant. Obed became the father of Jesse, whose youngest son was David, Israel's greatest king, of whose line Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Because of Ruth's great fidelity and deep devotion, she was rewarded with a favored position, a happy life and a glorious lineage—for she was an ancestress of our saviour. Thus the one who was an alien became a chosen vessel for the accomplishment of the glorious purpose of God. The fact that God chose a foreigner, as well as the Israelites, to accomplish his redemptive purpose is proof of his impartiality toward people. Through this alien God blessed the nation and the world. As certainly as he did that, God will bless and use every child of his who strives to please him.

God never leaves himself without a witness even in the darkest days. He often leads through displacement, famine and danger to the accomplishment of his holy purpose. One may lay hold on God by faith and appropriate his resources day by day.



William W. (Bill) Marshall
Executive Secretary-Treasurer, KBC
Box 43433
Middletown, KY 40243

on mission together

31 days

While each month of the year has its own peculiarities, August is likely the most significant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The last month of our financial year, it taunts even the best of our predictors. Our computer can take statistics and predict, but the computer failed to predict the record August last year. Coming as close to budget as we did was, for some of us, a small miracle.

This year we find ourselves there

90. For example, if we fall 2% under budget this year (our present trend) then we would need to grow by 6% next year, instead of the 4% actually projected in the 1989-90 budget. There is no evidence for 6% growth next year.

A 2% short-fall would likely prompt the business & finance committee to reconsider the 1989-90 budget for a possible revision downward. Such an action, while regrettable, would have to be affirmed as responsible stewardship of the executive board.

Which brings us back again to miracles.

Whether we have to slow down or even retreat from the financial goals of Bold Mission Thrust is still in the hands of the churches. There is **still time to meet budget.**

As August nears the end, I find myself both preparing to administer a smaller budget and praying for a miracle. In either event, our mission together will go on. And perhaps in days like these, that is miracle enough.

TV violence: how should Christians respond?

by Teresa Dickens

American television viewers have been exposed to the horror of civil unrest in recent weeks as news broadcasters have shown the results of the bloodbath in China. Viewers have seen beatings, dead bodies—most of them bloody—and in one instance, the remains of a Chinese soldier after he had been tied to a bus by the neck and set afire.

On another news broadcast, viewers heard the tape recording of a Florida boy's call to 911 in which he told the events of accidentally shooting his younger sister. In a terror-stricken voice, he recalled finding his dad's gun, pointing it toward his sister and, not realizing the gun was loaded, pulling the trigger. Before a rescue team could ar-

rive the little girl died.

On a prime time news show, viewers saw the story of an Indiana woman who had been beaten by her husband. She was first seen in a taped interview, bearing scars of a severe beating, telling police the sequence of events in the attack. Eventually viewers saw her body lying on the front lawn of a neighbor's house, where her husband finally caught up with her and beat her to death.

Such violence on television comes from the evening news and a prime-time news show, not to mention shows such as "Hunter," "In the Heat of the Night" and "China Beach," to name a few.

Violence has always been a part of society but in recent years it has increased markedly, researchers report. Some of them attribute a large part of that to the

increase of violence on television.

Thomas Radecki, a psychiatrist and chairman and research director for the National Coalition on Television Violence, reported: "Since 1956, when TV first became violent, murder has increased 300% per capita, rape 500% and assaults 600% per capita. Television is worse today than ever before. Forty percent of all TV and film entertainment contains high levels of physical violence, usually in a glamorized or exciting format.

"Television and film entertainment is one of the most important factors contributing to the formation of values and behaviors." Noting that family, peers and schooling are the other major factors, Radecki added, "How we choose to entertain ourselves and our children plays a major role in who we are and who we become."

Based on his research, Radecki made several startling observations about television viewing:

- The average person currently watches television 24 hours per week and listens to radio an almost equal amount of time.

- The average American child with pay cable and/or a VCR in the home will witness 32,000 murders, 40,000 attempted murders and a quarter-million total acts of violence by age 18.

- At current rates the average person will never witness a real-life murder in his or her lifetime but will see more than 70,000 on entertainment TV.

- Prime time television currently is averaging nine acts of violence per hour and Hollywood movies average 24 acts per hour.

- Forty-one cartoon series have been developed since 1982 to help sell lines of war toys.

Joe Shelton, chairman of the Department of Behavioral Science at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., agreed with Radecki, noting that violence seen on television affects viewers both psychologically and physiologically.

Based on a study done by Shelton and a group of students at the university, viewers tested before and after watching violent films showed an increase in their hostility and aggression level, along with an increase in blood pressure and pulse rate.

Although the findings were insignificant from a scientific standpoint, Shelton said the findings made one thing certain: "Watching violence affects people. Our study involved a short period of time and we saw a change in our participants. Just think about the effects of an indefinite period of time."

Shelton noted two possible results of constantly viewing violence: the development of violent behavior or apathy toward violence, a numbness.

"The greatest danger for Christians is growing apathetic," he stressed. "If you constantly view violence you soon lose sight of its seriousness. You are no longer shocked by anything you see."

"I believe that is where we are today. Most Christians watch violence and never think about the consequences it has on them."

One question on which psychologists do not agree is whether violence/aggression is learned or is an innate part of human nature. Those who believe it is learned say individuals are born free of aggression and acquire it as they observe and consequently model external factors.

Proponents of the innate theory suggest an individual is born with an aggressive nature and the need for expressing that nature. They say that is why men enjoy contact sports, car racing, hunting and fishing. The "learned" theorists counter that an individual enjoys particular sports because their fathers or other role models did.

Robert Troutwine, associate professor of psychology and chairman of the Psychology Department at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., combines the two theories, suggesting that man is born with an aggressive nature, but how he expresses it is determined by his environment.

"Aggression is a part of human nature," he said. "How we express our aggression is determined by what we see modeled."

For most youngsters the models include parents, peers and the media, Troutwine noted, emphasizing that in many cases the media has the greatest influence.

"Children spend an average of eight hours a day watching television," compared to only five hours of classroom time each day in school, he said. "And since violence is the primary way television deals with conflict, it is easy to see why television has such an influence."

Like Shelton, Troutwine said the greatest danger for most people is becoming desensitized, but he also warned against isolation: "Parents can't isolate their children. There is no way parents can protect their children forever. "Television can be a great educational tool." He suggested that television viewing should be a family event followed by interpretative discussion when needed.

Christians should be very concerned about the amount of violence on television and in movies, stressed Larry Braidfoot, general counsel for the Christian Life Commission. Noting Christians' response to "The Last Temptation of Christ" and pornography, he said: "Christians should have the same kind of concern over how violence is portrayed."

"Blessed are the peacemakers' is the biblical mandate concerning violence. That, along with the nonviolent lifestyle of Jesus, is the pattern we are to follow."

The church can have a role in resolving the problem, Braidfoot added: "One of the greatest ministry roles a church could have is in teaching conflict resolution. Our society has taught us to be in control. The church must teach us how to do it in a peaceful way."

Along with the church's role is the role individuals can play. Radecki and Troutwine both offered suggestions on what Christians can do to help combat the way violence is portrayed in society.

- Model a non- or antiviolenent lifestyle. Inappropriate verbal and physical actions can teach "violence is the answer to conflict," Troutwine warned.

- Monitor entertainment and recreation activity. Not only should parents monitor what television programs their children watch but also the kind of toys they buy for their children. "It is not healthy to teach your children to play war," Radecki emphasized.

- Become involved in the larger social issue Christians can write letters to producers and networks protesting the violent nature of programming and to lawmakers in support of legislation attempting to address the issue. (BP)

Music evangelist, 80, heads in all directions with ministry

by Chip Alford

Working alongside Southern Baptist giants like Herschel Hobbs, Perry Webb and W. A. Criswell, some ministers of music and education might fade quietly into the background. Not William Souther.

Known as "Billy" to his friends, Souther has made a name for himself as a pioneer in evangelistic music and religious education. Whether directing church or crusade choirs around the globe, devising innovative grading systems that result in phenomenal Sunday school growth or teaching others how to do the same, Souther has stayed at the forefront of Southern Baptist life. Last year he celebrated the 60th anniversary of his call to Christian ministry through religious education and music and he's still going strong.

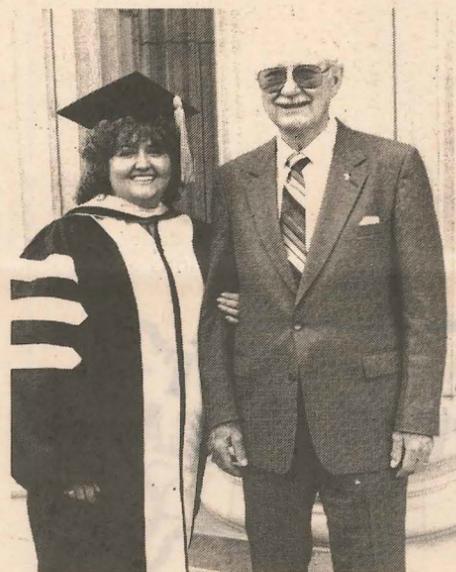
This year at the Southern Baptist Convention in Las Vegas, Nev., Souther received recognition from his alma mater, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex. The school's National Alumni Association named him an outstanding alumnus for 1989.

"I'm committed to my God-called ministry through music in evangelism," the 80-year-old Souther said. "I want to stay active in the ministry as long as I can."

The Oklahoma native who lives in Idaho continues his evangelistic music ministry leading revival choirs and conducting choral clinics across the United States. He also works as the northwest representative for a church furniture company.

At 19, Souther accepted Christ after being invited to a Southern Baptist church in Sapulpa, Okla., by the nephew of well-known Baptist missionary Josephine Skaggs. "I didn't want to go because it was a Baptist church," Souther recalled with a laugh, "but I went anyway and I became a Christian and was baptized."

Less than a year later Souther felt his call to the ministry while a member of First Baptist Church of Pontiac, Mich. He earned a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Baptist University and three degrees from Southwestern—master's degrees in religious education (1935) and sacred music (1938) and a doctorate in religious education (1963).



Billy Souther joins his daughter Joy Cullen, who followed her father's footsteps by earning a EDD degree from Southwestern.

After earning his master's degree at Southwestern, Souther served in several churches as minister of music and education, working with such pastors as Kearney Keegan and Hobbs at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Alexandria, La.; Webb at First Baptist, San Antonio; and Criswell at First Baptist, Dallas.

Souther's ability to organize and direct choirs for revival services and crusades, as well as in the local church, is well known throughout the SBC. His "Sing! Make a Joyful Sound!" series of evangelistic music arrangements have been used by choirs across the United States.

But Souther's influence has not been limited to America. He's also served as music coordinator and director for crusades in Japan, Korea and the Philippines, and has participated in mission tours of the Orient, Middle East and Europe.

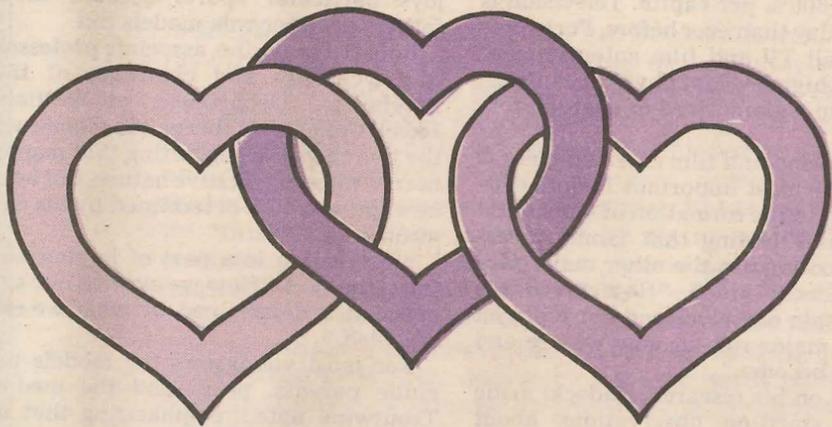
He also influenced the lives of hundreds of seminary students as a professor of church administration at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary for 15 years.

Through all of his Christian ministry Souther said he has learned to take hold of an important Christian principle.

"I really believe in waiting on the Lord," he said. "He always provides."

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION 1989-90

In His Name:



Reach, Teach, Touch

WATCHWORD:

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Matthew 25:40 (KJV)

WMU Emphasis 1989-90



Churches Meeting the Challenge of

JAPAN

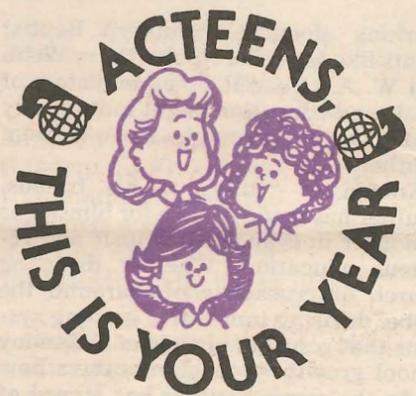
Foreign Mission Study

November 19-22, 1989



Home Mission Study

February 18-21, 1990



WEEK OF PRAYER

for Home Missions

March 4-11, 1990



*Sent...
to Serve*

Week of Prayer

for Foreign Missions

December 3-10, 1989



Focus on WMU

February 11-17, 1990